

*W. M. MacKer*

LIFE

OF

MARSHAL M<sup>AC</sup>MAHON,

Duke of Magenta;

WITH THE

PEDIGREE OF THE M<sup>AC</sup>MAHON FAMILY,

FROM THEIR FOUNDER, BRIAN BOROIMHE, MONARCH OF IRELAND,  
DOWN TO THE PRESENT CENTURY,

*From Authentic Historic Documents.*

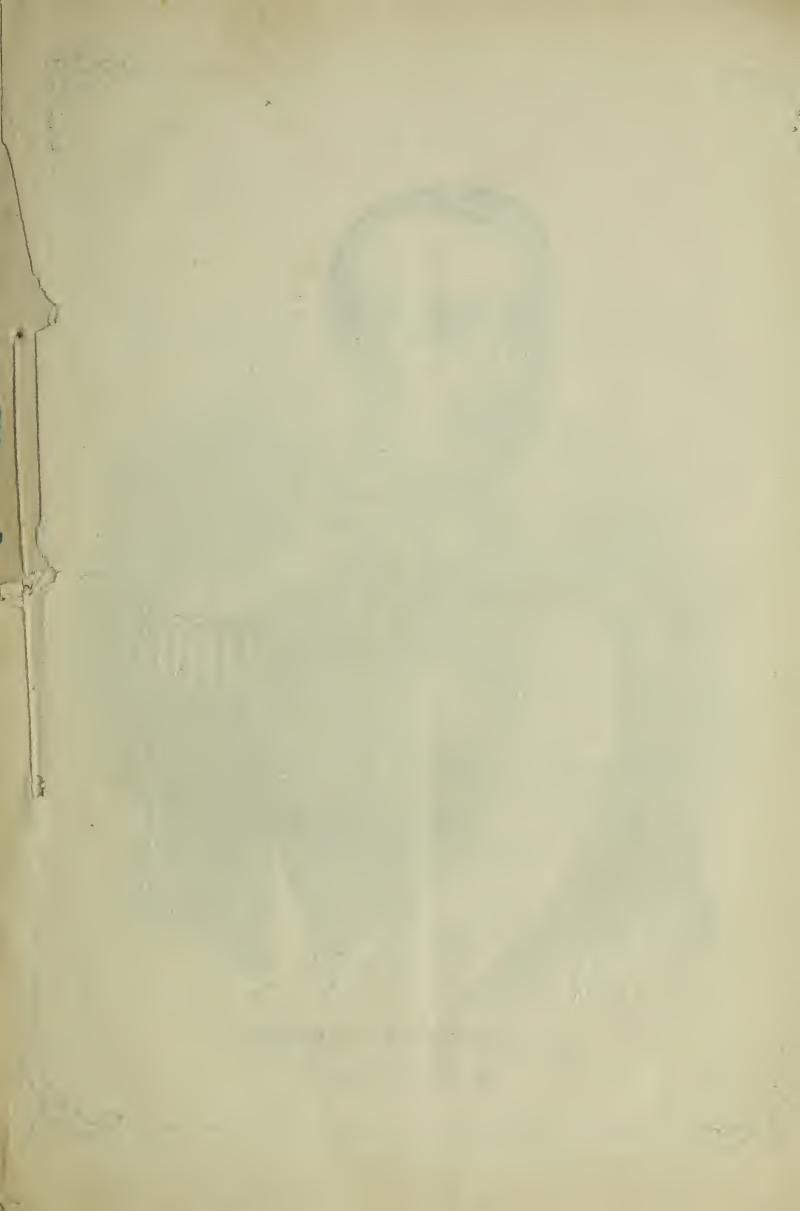
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1859.

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## P R E F A C E .

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IRISH hearts take deep interest in the fortunes and fame of the descendants of our race who daily win distinction in the front rank of war and politics amongst the great nations of the continent. Irish national faith, trampled and spat upon at home, finds some consolation in the glory of these children of the Gael. Whilst we are still the hewers of wood and drawers of water, even in our dearly loved and sorrowing land—whilst to the Irish of the old blood it is still forbidden by their foreign masters to aspire to the legitimate objects of a people's ambition—whilst we are scoffed at by our hereditary foes, and libelled and scorned as a degraded race—we can still feel our hearts kindle with a ray of pride when we find a MacMahon and an O'Neill foremost soldiers of France, or an O'Donnell ruling the destinies of Spain.

There is sign of hope, and omen of resurgence in all this. Therefore is the story of such a man as the Celtic hero, first military chief of France, which we present in these pages, welcome to Irish readers. Therefore are we rejoiced to find that these MacMahons, too, not forgetful of the old land of their sires, were proud (as is seen from the valuable genealogical documents they collected with so much labour) to prove before the monarch and nobles of Gaul that the rich hot blood of the Gaels of Ireland was flowing in their veins.

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# MARSHAL M<sup>AC</sup>MAHON,

## DUKE OF MAGENTA.

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### A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

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The baptismal name of the hero of Magenta is Marie-Edmonde-Patrice-Maurice MacMahon. His family name alone would prove his Irish descent. Valuable documentary evidence proves more : that he is the lineal descendant of Mahon, that great-grandson of Brian Boru, and head of the family, who gave his own name as a surname to his descendants. "He was born," says our French authority, "at Autun, in the department of Saône-et-Loire, in 1808. His family is of Irish origin : faithfully devoted to the Stuarts, it followed their sad fortunes ; and when, after the battles of the Boyne and la Hogue, James II., having lost

the throne of England, took refuge at the court of Louis XIV., the MacMahons came to demand from France a new country, and, like the Lally-Tollendals and M'Donalds, they knew well," says the grateful Frenchman, "how to repay with high achievements and eminent services the hospitality which they had received from her."

Marshal MacMahon's father was a soldier, too. He was the friend of Charles X., and held the rank of Lieutenant General in the armies of France, with the distinction of Commander of the Royal and Military order of St. Louis. They were a race of warriors : our hero's uncle, the Marquis de MacMahon, was a Major General in the French service ; and his elder brother was a Major, or chef de battallion, so far back as the revolution of 1830 which finally drove the Bourbons from the throne of Hugh Capet.

Our French authority informs us that, by his mother's side, the Marshal has the purple blood of the Dukes of Caraman and the princes of Chimay mingling in his veins with the prouder and more royal current of the O'Briens.

But, for all that, it is to his personal prowess, not his lineage, that Patrick Maurice M'Mahon owes his greatness. He fought his way to his Marshal's baton ; and every step of his promotion was won by some signal deed of valour.

Begun in the home of his father, young MacMahon finished his education at St. Cyr. Or rather he went forth from that nursery of heroes, at the age of nineteen, prepared to begin that stern education of the outer world which fashions the man to good or evil destinies.

In 1827, he was a sub-lieutenant of the 4th Hussars, of

which his brother was captain. But young MacMahon was not the quality of man to love the idle dissipation of "a crack regiment." To wear a scarlet coat and go on guard at the palace was not exactly the measure of his ambition. The 20th Regiment of the Line was bound for Africa ; and our hero, who had a soldier's heart and wanted work, exchanged into it forthwith. In that fierce clime, where France has trained all her modern warriors, MacMahon fleshed his maiden sword. In 1830, the young soldier already began to distinguish himself by that almost reckless daring which so eminently characterises the Gaelic race from which he is sprung ; and on the field of battle, on the hill of Mouzaï, General Clauzel with his own hands rewarded the gallant young subaltern with the Cross of the Legion of Honour. The September of 1831 saw MacMahon a lieutenant in the 8th Cuirassiers. As aide de-camp to General Achard, in 1832, he shared in the expedition to Belgium ; and won the Cross of the Order of Leopold by his bravery at the siege of Anvers.

There is a story told of him, as a young cadet in Africa, which is graphically illustrative of the character of the soldier who has passed through countless scenes of danger, through "hair-breadth 'scapes by flood and field" almost without a wound. At the close of the successful battle of the "hill of Terchia," General Achard wished to send a message to Colonel Rulhières at Blidah, between three and four miles off, to change the order of his march. This message he entrusted to MacMahon, and offered him a squadron of mounted Chasseurs as an escort. The gallant young descendant of the Gaels needed no guard : he would deliver the

message alone : he mounted his horse and rode off. Three miles through an enemy's country, where every rock or shrub might hide an armed foe, was a dangerous ride ; but the solitary horseman pricked his steed, and trotted on without a thought of fear. About six hundred yards from Blidah lay a ravine, bluff, broad, and deep ; beyond which the ground was level and smooth. MacMahon had ridden within a short distance of this ravine when suddenly he beheld a host of Arabs in full pursuit of him from every side. One look told him his chances : there was nothing for it but to jump that treacherous gulf or be butchered by his pursuers. He set his horse's head at the leap, put spur and whip to it, reached the bank, and cleared the ravine at a bound. It was a terrible jump : the pursuing Arabs would not risk *their* necks at it : and only sent after the daring soldier a shower of bullets, as horse and rider rolled over on the other side with the poor steed's leg broken. MacMahon, round whose ears the balls still whistled, disengaged himself from the wounded animal, and reached the town safely on foot.

Three years more of active service brought him merited promotion. At the attack on Constantine in 1836, he received a slight wound (the only wound he has ever got through thirty years of almost constant warfare). On that occasion honourable mention was made of his distinguished bravery ; and he was promoted to the grade of Officer of the Legion of Honour. Years afterwards, he won renown in the establishment and organisation of the tenth battalion of Chasseurs d'Orleans ; and he only quitted that corps in 1842, to assume the rank of lieutenant-colonel of the second

foreign legion, from which post he received further promotion to the colonelcy of the 41st regiment of infantry of the line ; and at the head of that corps he won fresher laurels on the field of Africa. The memorable year of '48 saw him a general of brigade and governor of Tlemcen.

This was a post to try the genius of the statesman as well as the skill of the soldier. "The ancient capital of a once powerful empire," says our French authority, "situated on the frontier of Morocco, Tlemcen is one of the most difficult, if not the most important, commands in Africa. Interests the most diverse in their nature converge there — interests political, military, and commercial, to say nothing of minute administrative details, of measures to be taken, of works to be constructed in the interests of colonisation. In his new functions MacMahon revealed a phaze of character theretofore unperceived : he proved himself as good an administrator as he had been a brave soldier." And another witness says : "Ardent in work, reserved in manners, anxious for strict justice to all, he attained this result, the value of which may be understood by all who have meddled in the affairs of Algeria—that he never excited the odium of any, whether soldiery, civilians, or Arabs, and that he caused our frontiers to be respected even by the most turbulent and aggressive Moorish tribes." By his military and administrative energy the hostile tribes were tamed, order was established throughout the whole district, and agriculture, "that fruitful source of riches for the African colony" rapidly developed.

The manifestation of great talent here was the sure road



to further promotion. In 1849, MacMahon was made Commander of the Legion of Honour, and advanced to the governorship of the provinces of Oran and Constantine, a position in which he had still grander opportunities of proving his genius as warrior and statesman. Kabylia, in the warfare carried on against its bold and intrepid mountain tribes, proved for him a field of fresh military glory. In 1852, he became grand officer of the Legion of Honour, general of division, and commander of the army of the North.

Then came the Crimean war, and the undying crown of laurels which this brilliant child of the Gael plucked with daring hand from that bloody field of a long and deadly struggle. Who does not know now the history of the fall of Sebastopol and MacMahon's share in it? Who forgets—Irishmen as well as the Celts of France, remember it with pride, albeit blended with shame and regret, too—how, when the English retreated from the Redan, baffled and humbled, MacMahon and his Zouaves took the terrible Malakoff, *and held it*, till the Russians, no longer able to drive out those French salamanders, who seemed to live in the midst of fire, fell back in despair.

Pelissier was Commander-in-Chief that day. They told him the Malakhoff was mined. He sent orders to MacMahon to return. What! give up all now!—now, when trench and rampart had been cleared by the nimble-footed Gauls, though deadly fires of artillery and musketry belched round them bearing death on every blast—now, when his armed hand clutched at the very heart of the great fortress! “I will hold my ground,” said MacMahon, “dead or alive.” Against such a chief, with soldiers like those he commanded,

what foe could prevail? It mattered not now that the English had fled from the Redan: the standard of France floated from the highest tower of the great key-fortress: no power could drive out the fierce war-eagles who had made it their fiery nest. The Russians began a headlong retreat, and Sebastopol was won.

On the establishment of peace with Russia, General MacMahon returned home to receive the dignity of senator of the Empire. Africa again became the scene of his labours; and last year the whole of the land and sea forces of Algeria were under his command. When the war with Austria broke out, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the second *corps d'armée* of Italy.

In that Southern garden-land MacMahon reaped still his greatest glory—fighting now in the cause of justice and national right—not battling for the triumph of rival dynasties, but combatting for the freedom of a gifted and noble, though long most cruelly wronged and outraged, race. In Italy, we had almost said, the keystone was placed upon the arc of his high fortune. But *is* that noble work completed yet?—is Patrick Maurice MacMahon's career of glory run out? A valiant soldier, still, in the prime of life, there may be other triumphs in store for him. For the gallant descendant of Ireland's great olden monarch—for the brilliant representative of the soldier-king who, at Clontarf, annihilated the might of the sea-kings, there may be still richer glory to reap in battling for other nationalities—a nobler renown to earn in humbling the pride of other pirates, who boast that they are the kings of the sea to-day. Who shall say what is in the future?

The battle of Magenta was the crowning achievement of MacMahon's soldierly skill and dash. It was the feat of Desaix repeated : by it French honour was saved and an overwhelming foe defeated. In one week, Napoleon the Third, by a display of military genius for which the world was unprepared, drove back the Austrians across the Ticino, turned their flank, and forced them to give battle. With a suddenness which the French had not anticipated the Austrians, who had concentrated one hundred and fifty thousand men upon this point, attacked the advancing allies at the bridge of Magenta. The choicest French troops were there ; and, under the eye of the Emperor himself, they met the charge with unbroken front, and drove back the foe with loss. But the Austrians, reinforced every moment, returned to the assault again and again ; and, after many an hour of desperate fighting, in which guardsman and Zouave displayed a heroic valour, the fortune of the day seemed to turn against the French. MacMahon, with the force under his command, had early in the day crossed the river farther up, to execute a flank movement, and had already marched some miles away from the scene where the hottest fury of battle was raging. The thunder of the cannon, nevertheless, reached his ears ; he listened eagerly to that terrible music of war, and with a warrior's instinct interpreted its meaning. With the quick intelligence of a great military chief, he saw at once how matters stood ; and hastily reversing his orders, he *doubled* upon the Austrians. It was the decisive moment of battle ; the fortune of empires was that instant weighed in the balance ; and the sword of Dalcass turned the scale. The



might of the Teuton reeled before the headlong charge of the Gallic legion ; the Austrians were utterly routed, and fled in disorder, leaving seven thousand prisoners in the hands of the conquerors and twenty thousand soldiers killed and wounded on the field of battle.

That day, which freed Lombardy from the iron heel of its German tyrants, saw MacMahon raised to the dignity of Marshal and Duke of the Empire.

Such is the history, as yet unended, of the gallant soldier whose portrait graces our title-page, and the authentic evidence of whose descent from the last great Monarch of the Gaedhil is found in the pages that follow. How that history will be finished yet, who can tell ? The times are momentous—mighty changes loom upon Europe—his proudest diadem of civic or military glory may still await the brows of the Marshal Duke of Magenta.

Soldiers love personal bravery in their chiefs ; and the almost reckless intrepidity of Marshal MacMahon has endeared him to the legionaries of France. Fortune has favoured his valour ; and it has been remarked as singular that in all the mighty battles and daring combats in which he has been engaged, and in which he has ever faced the thickest of the fight, performing prodigies of valour, he has received only one slight wound.

He is a man of many-sided character, great as a soldier, capable as a statesman, graceful and affable as a polished gentleman of France. Our portrait, a truthful likeness, represents a countenance of intense and concentrated energy, blended with a certain sweetness of expression. And this is the man, Patrick Maurice MacMahon. “A

stern soldier in the camp," says the French authority we have already quoted, " Marshal MacMahon carries into the ordinary relations of life much affability and accomplished grace of manner. It has been said of him that he unites the energy of Cambronne with the elegance of Richelieu." An English king said that the Irish of the French Court were the most polished gentlemen of the world : Patrick Maurice MacMahon maintains the reputation of his race. Such a man should the descendant of kings and the commander of heroes be ; and such is the conqueror of Magenta.

In physical appearance Marshal MacMahon is rather below than above the middle size, with small but well-shaped face and head, and spare lightsome figure : fit chief to lead the winged legions of the Gaul to victory and renown.

D. H.

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# THE ROYAL DESCENT OF THE MACMAHONS OF FRANCE.

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THE Marshal Duke of Magenta is a lineal descendant of MAHON, the son of that King MURTOGH O'BRIEN, who died A.D. 1119, after a reign of twenty years, who was the last monarch of Erin of the O'Briens, and great grandson of Brian *Boroimhé* or Boru. A prouder descent no noble nor prince in Europe can lay claim to; and if length of proved pedigree is still to be considered a matter of honour and satisfaction, we believe there are not in Europe a dozen families who can trace their descent, without a step lost or doubtful, so far back to remote antiquity as (through the Great King Brian) may the Marshal Maurice Patrick MACMAHON as clearly as his kinsman William Smith O'BRIEN.

We Irish care little, indeed, for Kings or nobles; the crowns and patents of nobility of modern times are as little to us as the decorations of the feathered Indian or of the black Sovereignty

of Hayti. We acknowledge no superiority in the Duke of This or Earl That, let him be the proudest and wealthiest aristocrat in the peerage of England ; nor shall we ever be willing to concede our republican *rights* of perfect individual equality, which we all hope one day or the other to vindicate or establish for ever for our long-trodden people. But we do passionately reverence whatsoever connects itself with the ancient independence of our Nationality, with our ancient Irish Laws, and Customs, and Government ; and we do lovingly respect, above all human titles to respect which nobility can produce, the personal and historic claims upon our people of any true descendant of our ancient Kings. We cling to the memory of the Kings of ancient Erinn. We delight to remember their glory. We rejoice in the tradition of that national sovereignty which their gallantry ennobled long centuries ago. And the descendants of almost the oldest pure race in existence are ever ready to think of, aye so as absolutely to live again in imagination in, those earlier days of its national freedom, just as ardently as if they had passed from us but sixty instead of six hundred years ago. So in looking on the living descendant of so long a line of Irish Kings, —aye even in the midst of our degradation to-day,—we feel a longing, as though the Providence of God and the care of St. Patrick and St. Brigid, still watching and praying for the island and the race which had been committed to their guardianship, had preserved to us yet some scions of the pure stock *to be as living links with the past, when the day shall come for that revival of our ancient Nationality which Ireland has never yet ceased to believe is destined with all the certainty of Fate.*

Such are the feelings with which Ireland honours O'BRIEN. Such are the feelings with which Ireland recognised with delight one of her royal names in that of the Victor of Magenta the other day ; and it is with such feelings that Ireland will joyfully receive Marshal

MACMAHON, whenever Fate shall inspire him to make worthy acquaintance with the land of his renowned ancestors, when Ireland shall know that his lineage also is that of the hero of Clontarf, as pure, as direct, and as well preserved in proof, as that of the House of Thomond itself, and at all times ranked equally as noble. When, therefore, we proceed to lay before the Irish public the most interesting historical documents which establish the lineage of the French MacMahons, it is through no idle desire to gratify the vain-glory of an individual. These documents would be worth preserving, as of purely historical value, were there no hero such as the Marshal connected with them ; because it is a good deal from such documents that our national history—the history of “the noble clanns of Erin”—must be made up. But we are especially delighted to be able thus to prove our national claim to Marshal MacMahon himself, for every reason that can possibly inspire a nation with the strongest personal interest in an individual ; for reasons of the Past, the Present, and the Future ; for reasons anything but those which the idle vanity of the mere family genealogist, or the paltry respect for mere titular rank of the modern herald would suggest. We are proud of MacMahon because he is a brave and able *Gaedhel* ; we shall love and respect him because, the lineal descendant of some of our greatest kings, he cannot choose but be to us a representative of the ancient independence, as well as the glory of which he seems a link with the generation of to-day ; we desire to make himself, too, for ever feel one of *us*, even while he is true in his allegiance to that noble kindred nation in which his grandfather was the first-born citizen of his family.

The papers of which we are about to lay an abstract before our readers, and some of the more interesting of which we print below at full length, formed a portion of the collection of the late Chevalier O’Gorman, a well-known investigator of the old Gaedhlic MSS. at the close



of last century. They have been for some time in the possession of Profesor Curry, together with many other historical documents of a similar character, for examination and reference in the course of his historical investigations. The whole collection is the property of our enterprising fellow-citizen Mr. George Smith of Grafton Street, to whom the cause of Irish literature is under so many obligations, and to whose liberality and kindness the present writer is indebted for permission to make the abundant use he has done of the portion of it connected with the MacMahon family.

The papers are not entirely complete, the greater part of them having of course been lodged originally with the government authorities of France, before the great Revolution, by the MacMahons, and some having after that event remained no doubt among the archives of the family. The papers left among those of the Chevalier O'Gorman include several originals, which he appears to have procured in Paris, after 1793 (probably from the MacMahons, after their purposes had been accomplished), and some copies of letters and other documents. It would appear that about the year 1770, or probably before it, the Chevalier Maurice MacMahon (of Maguien, in Burgundy), as well as his elder brother Jean-Baptiste MacMahon, Marquis d'Eguilly or d'Aignilly, was endeavouring to satisfy the Court of Louis XV. that his family was of ancient noble blood. They had already been legally admitted as "nobles," but they were anxious, it seems, to establish their right to the privileges of the Marquisate—distinguished, according to the absurd forms of the old French monarchy, as including that of "*monter dans les carrosses du Roi*,"—which required in the case of a Frenchman perfect legal proof of noble birth for seven generations back at the least; and as the proofs of the genealogies and other documents which had been sufficient to gain them admission as nobles to the Estates of Burgundy were not in all respects explicit enough for their higher

object, they appear to have sought, among others, through the Abbé C. Kearney and through a Mr. L. Kearney the intervention in Ireland of the Chevalier O'Gorman to procure certain further evidences from this country ; and the Chevalier afterwards received from the sons of the Marquis no less than 12,000 francs (or about £500) for his services. The papers preserved among the O'Gorman MSS. include the original genealogies, as well as the Petition to the King of France, besides some of the letters and documents which passed between the Kearneys and O'Gorman on the subject; and with the more important of the latter we may conveniently preface the former documents.

The first of these is interesting as being an original letter of Jean-Baptiste MacMahon, Marquis d'Eguilly. It is addressed to Doctor O'Gorman, and bears date at Sully, the estate now of the writer's descendant the Count MacMahon, the elder brother of the Marshal Duke of Magenta. It runs in the original as follows :—

à Sully le 25 Juin, 1774.

Vous me croiez, Monsieur, toujours à Paris ; j'en suis sortis après le triste évènement qui merite le deuil de la France, (1) et ne suis cependant arrivé ici que depuis quatre jours, aiant passé le reste du tem dans des terres que j'ay sur le bord de la Loire, raison pourquoy je n'ay pu avoir l'honneur de repondre à votre lettre obligeante dattée d'Oxford le 21 May dernier ; j'ay prevenu les avis que vous avez la bonté de m'y donner ; je n'ay rien fait ni remué dans l'affaire de la filiation depuis votre depart, et quand même le bouleversement actuel ne seroit pas arrivé je n'aurois rien hazardé avant votre retour et les secours que j'espere fort recevoir de vos lumières et de vos recherches dans des preuves de cette espece autant difficiles par l'obscurite repandue sur notre patrie et par ses usages differents de la France que par l'éloignement des tems ; j'ay

(1) [The death of Louis XV., which occurred just at this time.]

toujour senti comme vous-même le remarquez le peu de confiance que merite surtout ici une longue suite de noms sans epoques, sans faits, et sans dattes, c'est cependant le methode usitée jusque à present dans toutes les preuves dressées dans le païs et qu'on a laissé passer sans autre motifs que la bonne foi et quelque deference a l'usage. Si dans l'affaire qui nous regarde nous sommes assés heureux pour trouver des materiaux suffisants d'ou moins jusque a un certain degré pour sortie de cet embarras c'est a vous, monsieur, que nous en aurons toute l'obligation, et c'est avec toute la confiance possible que j'attend de votre amitié l'arrangement de toutes les pièces que vous pourrez decouvrir utiles a notre objet, personne ne pouvant être plus au fait de l'etat des difficultés qu'on nous fait ni plus capable de juger des preuves necessaires pour l'ecarter si elles peuvent tomber entre vos mains. Ma femme et mes enfans biensensibles a l'honneur de votre souvenir vous font milles empressés compliments ; mon frere est toujours a Paris. Le Roy (2), Monsieur, (3) M. le Comte d'Artois (4), et Madame la Contesse d'Artois ont été inoculé de la petite verole le 20 de ce mois. Le Comte de Miry est Ministre de la Guerre, et Mr. de Vergene des Affaires Etrangères—vous apprendrez sans doute ces nouvelles par les gazettes publiques.—On parle de la demission d'un autre ministre de votre connoissance, mais cela n'a pas lieu jusque a present. Toutes les affaires cesseront jusque a la guerisson du maitre ; le Ministre de la Guerre est exacte à la regle ; aucun officier de quelque græde il puisse etre et sous quelque ce soit ne sera dispensé de joindre son corp dans le tems precis fixé par les ordonnances ; tous ont été obligés de se gronder sans pouvoir repliquer. Le voyage de Compiègne n' aura pas lieu a cause de l'inoculation. Comme je pense que vous serez de reto ur au moin dans quelques

(2) [Louis XVI.] (3) [Afterwards Louis XVIII.] (4) [Afterwards Charles X.]



mois je pense que tout ce que vous aurez et pourrez decouvrir pour notre usage sera rendu assés a tem, si vous avez la bonté de vous en charger vous même ; mais si des affaires vous retenoient pour passer l'hiver hors de la France, vous auriez celle d'adaresser Mr. l'abbé Kelly, parceque je ne puis fixer le tem que je pourray et qui sera necessaire que je me rende a Paris. En attendant l'honneur de vous voir et de vous faire mes plus sincères remercimens, comptez sur le devouement reconnoissant avec lequel je ne cesseray d'etre,

Monsieur,

votre très humble et très obeissant serviteur,

MACMAHON MRQS D'EGUILLY.\*

[This letter bears the French Postmark. It is addressed ; ‘ *Post payé jusque a Paris. To Doctor O’Gorman, Esqre ; at Mr. Harald’s, Cow-lane, Dublin ; pour l’Irlande.*’ The seal bears a coat of arms crested with a Marquis’s coronet : two lions ; Griffins for supporters ; Motto. Sic nos sic sacra . . . . emur.]

\* The following is a translation of the greater part of this letter :—

“ Sully, 25th June, 1774. You think me, sir, still at Paris ; I left it after the sad event which deserves the mourning sorrow of France ; and yet I have only arrived here four days ago, having passed the remainder of the time on a property which I have on the banks of the Loire, for which reason I was unable to have the honour of answering your obliging letter dated at Oxford the 20th of last May. I had anticipated the advice you had the goodness to give me. I have done nothing in the affair of the genealogy since your departure ; and even had the existing confusion not occurred I should have hazarded nothing before your return with the assistance which I hope so much to receive from your skill and from your researches in proofs of that kind, rendered so difficult as well by the obscurity which envelopes our country and by the difference of the usages of France as by the distance of time. I have always felt, as you yourself observe, the little confidence which, here above all, is given to a long list of names without epochs, without events, and without dates ; it is, however, the method in use

The next letter in order of date is one (original) from "C. Kearney," addressed "Count O'Gorman, at Mr. J. Murray's, M.D., Exchequer Street, No. 52, Dublin." It bears the postmark of Paris, and of 28th March, 1789. It is dated March 23, 1789, and bears O'Gorman's memorandum on it, "answered 5th May, 1789." In this letter the writer mentions that he had lately been at Toulouse about "an interesting matter," that namely of "the Messrs. MacMahon d'Eguilly," the sons of the Marquis, who appears to have been then dead. "They want," he says, "titles for seventy or eighty years; it is absolutely essential for them to have them; hence they expect you will procure them for them; they will certainly be handsomely acknowledging for it." The writer refers to similar business already successfully (and profitably) concluded by O'Gorman

Hitherto in all proofs of this kind prepared in our country, proofs which are allowed to pass with no other motive than good faith and a certain deference to established usage. If in our affair we are fortunate enough to find materials sufficient, at least to a certain extent, to escape from this embarrassment, it is to you, sir, that we shall owe the whole; and it is with all possible confidence that I await from your friendship the arrangement of all the documents which you shall be able to discover useful to our object, no one being better aware of the difficulties which we lie under, or better able to judge of the necessary proofs to bring us out of them should they fall into your hands." [The letter proceeds to give some news of the French court, and concludes] "As I think you will be on your way back at least in a few months I think all you shall have or can discover for our use will be here in time, if you have the goodness to take charge of it yourself; but if your business should detain you through the winter away from France, you may have the kindness to address yourself to the Abbé Kelly [qu. Kearney?], for I cannot fix the time when I shall be able to go or must go to Paris. Waiting the honor of seeing you, and of tendering to you my most sincere thanks, count on the grateful devotion with which I shall not cease to be, sir, your most humble and most obedient servant,

"MACMAHON, Marquis D'EGUILLY."

for other Irish families in France, and among them the “de Kearneys.”

The next letter is as follows :—

Paris, July ye 16th, 1789.

MY DEAR CHEVALIER,—A journey I made to London, where I remained for two months and half, being only returned a few days ago, was the cause of your letter of the 5th of May lying so long without an answer. Before I go any further on, I must tell you I saw in London your sister-in-law Mll. D'Eou, by whom I was treated in the most friendly and genteel manner. Notwithstanding your having forbid me to write to you any more with regard to the Messrs. MacMahon, I cannot but let you know that there are deposited here with a friend of yours twelve thousand livres, instead of nine, to be paid to you on your succeeding for them for the month of next October . . . This proposal I look on to be very fair. You will gain three thousand livres by this arrangement, and as you are sure of procuring them what they want, and that the money is sure here immediately on the affairs being finished, I think that you would act prudently to accept the offer—ils pourroient fort bien laisser tout cela la' et vous y perderiez. The fact is that by waiting to be paid until their business is accomplished you gain clear three thousand livres; besides whatever was the conduct of the Father, let it not hurt the sons. They are respectable estimable young men, they really do honour to the country. They will be friends to you and your children; so that every way you will gain; you will besides feel a satisfaction dear to a heart as good, as patriotic as yours, that of serving two countrymen. In a word, I, as a friend, advise you strenuously, both for your real interest, and for the gratification of your feelings, to come into those estimable young men's measures. As to Mrs. Kearney's papers, for God's sake do try to get them. You'll keep them until you are paid—and paid you certainly will be. Adieu. I wish you all health and happiness, and if you

can work for Mrs. Kearney, of Rochelle, you will essentially serve and oblige also your very affectionate friend and humble servant,

C. KEARNEY.

[This letter which bears the postmark *P. Payé, Paris*, is addressed "Chevr. O'Gorman, No. 24, Beresford Street, Dublin," and readdressed to "Rue Condé, No. 12, Paris."]

There is a third (original) letter to O'Gorman, in French, signed, "L. Kearney;" and bearing date Paris, 3d Jan., 1791. It is couched in very strong language, in which the writer threatens the Chevalier with severe personal consequences, "si avant le vingt de ce mois les papiers des Messrs. MacMahons ne sont pas envoyés ici." This letter is marked by O'Gorman, "recu le 22 et repondu le 25, Janvier, 1791."]

A copy of the following letter from O'Gorman is, also among these papers. It is without date, but must have been written after the year 1792 :—

"M. de la Touche.

"Monsieur et bon.

"Je ne puis pas laisser partir de cette ville Monsieur MacMahon d'Eguilly sans me rappeler a votre souvenir et m' informer de l' état de votre santé et de celle de votre chere épouse. C'est avec chagrin que j' apprends que les affaires publiques de France ont influées sur votre sort, mais il faut avoir patience et mettre tout au pied de la Croix.

"Je viens de recueillir pour M. MacMahon un corps complet de preuves suivies de sa Maison depuis l' année 1277, et j'en envoie l'aperçu à M. Cherin. Je souhaite fort que celui-ci vous chargeat de ce travail, bien persuadé que vous employeriez toute la diligence possible dans l'expédition de la besogne. En tout cas je recommande instamment M. MacMahon a votre amitié et a vos bons offices. Quoique dans ce moment cy la noblesse soit supprimée en France, neanmoins M. MacMahon desire ardemment de se mettre en règle

*a fin de pouvoir former le plutot possible tant pour lui que pour son frère des alliances analogues a leur naissance.\** S'ils avoient en l'avantage de me connoître dès le commencement de cette bésogne ils auroient en l'honneur d'etre présentés il y a long tems mais ils se sont fiés a leurs parens au pays qui n' ayant nulle connoissance des usages de France se sont contentés de leur envoyer les titres de leur famille suivant les formes employées en Angleterre et en Irlande.

“ Adieu, mon bon ami, je vous embrasse ainsi que votre chere moitié de tout mon cœur et suis tout à vous.

“ O'G.”

The result of the genealogies may now be shortly stated ; the originals of them will be found annexed.

The Marquis d'Eguilly and the Chevalier MacMahon were descended from the MacMahons of Feenish and Rin-nanagh in Clare ; these again from the MacMahons of Clonderala ; and the MacMahon princes of Clondirala were the lineal descendents and senior representatives of Murtagh O'Brien, the last King of Erin of the O'Briens, who died in 1126, or 1119, according to the Annals of the Four Masters.

Brien *Boroimhé*, or Boru, was killed at the battle of Clontarf in 1014, and was succeeded in the sovereignty of Erin (after the death of King Malachy) by his son *Tadhg* or Teige, who died 1042. To Teige succeeded his brother Donogh, who abdicated, and was succeeded by Turloch, the son of Teige, also *Ard-Righ*, who died in 1086 ; and to him his eldest son Murtoch, who died 1126. Turloch O'Brien, the grandson of Brien-Boru, had a second son Diarmaid ; and it is from this Dairmaid that the O'Briens of Thomond are sprung.

\* “ Although at this moment Nobility is suppressed in France, yet M. MacMahon ardently desires to complete his proofs, in order to be able as soon as possible to form alliances both for himself and his brother corresponding in rank to their high birth.”



The eldest son of King Murtoch O'Brien was Mahon ; and his son Murroch, Prince of Corcobaiscin, took the name of MacMahon, ("son of Mahon,") instead of O'Brien, ("grandson or descendant of Brien"), whence the clann MacMahon.

[Corcobaiscin consists of the district of Clare which lies between the River Fergus and Loop-Head, and now comprehended in the Baronies of Clonderala and Moyarta.]

Murroch was succeeded by his son Diarmaid ; and he by his son Murroch again. The latter Murroch was succeeded by his eldest son Donoch, and he by his eldest son Dairmaid, and he again by his son *Rudhraidhe* or Rory MacMahon, whose eldest son was Donach *na glaicé* MacMahon. This Donach had two sons, *Tadhg* or Teige the eldest, and Donach *óg* ; and between these he divided Corcobaiscin, giving the eldest the eastern half, afterwards erected into the "Barony of Clonderalâ," and to the younger the western portion (with the Castle of Carrigaholt), under the name of western Corcobaiscin. This division was made early in the 14th century. Teige left a son Teige, who left a son Turloch, who left two sons, the eldest being Teige. The descendants of this Teige fought at Kinsale in 1601, under Don Juan de Aguila, and then went into Spain ; they are extinct ; their property was confiscated to the use of Sir Daniel O'Brien, afterwards Viscount Clare, a brother of the supporter of the English Donoch, the 4th Earl of Thomond.

Turloch (who died 1472) was married to Helen Fitzgerald, daughter of Maurice Earl of Kildare, and by her he had, besides Teige, also a second son Donoch. He divided his possessions between them, leaving Cloinderalâ to Teige the eldest, and to Donoch the territories of Feenish and Rinnanagh in Clare.

Donogh, Lord of Feenish and Rinanagh, left a son, Turloch, who died in 1577. This Turloch married Jane MacNamara, and left by her a son, Brian (born 1568), who married Margaret, daughter of Donach O'Brien of Doagh.

A convention between this Turloch and the Commissioners of Queen Elizabeth (15th Feb., 1564,) attests the descent of the family to this point. After this, a series of wills, marriage certificates, and other legal documents complete the proofs down to the Marquis d'Eguilly.

Brian left a son Murtagh, who was succeeded by his son (by Eleanor O'Nelan) Murroch MacMahon, who died in 1653, and who married Helen Fitzgerald, and left a son Mortogh, who died in 1739. This Murtogh married Helen MacSheehy, by whom he had two sons: Murrogh, born 1682, who settled in Portugal, and became a knight of the order of Christ; and Patrick, born 1684, who, in 1707, married Margaret O'Sullivan. Of this marriage were three sons; the eldest, Jean-Baptiste, was born in Limerick in 1715, and afterwards settling in France married Charlotte de Belin, and became Marquis d'Eguilly in 1763; the second, Maurice, "le Chevalier MacMahon," became a Knight of Malta; the third was Catholic Bishop of Killaloe. A short note from the latter, written before the Revolution, is preserved among the O'Gorman MSS.

The Marquis d'Eguilly had five children; three daughters who, as of noble birth, were admitted Chanoinesses at Alix; Charles Laure, Marquis di Viange, born 8th May, 1752; and Maurice François, Count de Charnay, born 13th Oct., 1754. The latter are the two "Messrs. MacMahon" alluded to in Kearney's and O'Gorman's letters.

Such is an abstract of this most interesting genealogical tree. The detailed proofs will be found, in great part, in the subjoined documents. Of these, the first is the "Memoire," for the information of the King,—apparently drawn up by the officer, or committee, to whom the application had been referred,—a Report on the proofs of descent relied on by M. le Chevalier de MacMahon and his nephews. The second is a "Memoir upon the antiquity and origin of the MacMahons of Thomond in the Kingdom of Ireland," probably presented by the Chevalier. It refers in great detail to all the

various proofs collected. The third is the text of the Petition to the King of France, founded on all these various documents. Of all these documents we give translations : the original French will be found in the Appendix. The second "*Mémoire*" is remarkable as showing what the nature of the ancient Irish records was, and why the King of France should be content with the proofs afforded by them under the circumstances of the intrusion of English law and government, to the ruin of the ancient customs and the regularity of the official records under the ancient laws "of the Scoto-Milesians."

Lastly, we have added the formal notarial certificate (procured, we may presume, by O'Gorman, for it is preserved in copy in his handwriting) of the references made to documents in the record office of the Exchequer concerning the territories and family of the MacMahons of Thomond ; and attesting the accuracy of certain extracts made from "the ancient cartulary of the Monastery of Innish-Clondoard [Clonroad] in the province of Thomond," preserved in the Library of Trinity College.

The O'Gorman MSS. to which we have referred contain no further documents on the subject of this immediate genealogy ; the remainder of those collected, those particularly which are referred to so minutely in the "*Mémoire*" (No. II.) are doubtless,—unless destroyed during the Great Revolution,—either in some of the public archives of Paris or among the papers of the Comte de MacMahon at Autun. But for our purpose in Ireland these invaluable "*Mémoires*" contain a *résumé* of all the information in which we feel so great an interest ; and these singularly well proved genealogies will abundantly satisfy the learned as well as the people of Ireland that according to the ancient Constitution MAURICE PATRICK MACMAHON, like William Smith O'Brien, would be qualified by his descent, as a true *righ-damna*, to admission to the Throne of Erin.

FIRINNE.



## MEMOIR No. I.

Memoir of the proof of the nobility of M. MacMahon, Knight of Malta, and of Messieurs MacMahon de Viange and de Charnay, his nephews, who demanded to be admitted to "ride in the King's carriages," [that is to the privileges of the Marquis in the nobility of France.]

The proof offered by Messieurs MacMahon is principally based on five Genealogies of their House.

The 1st was drawn up July 29, 1772, from a manuscript on vellum preserved in Trinity College, Dublin, by two notaries of that city, authenticated by the Lord Mayor of the same place, by a Notary Royal in London, and by Count de Guines, ambassador of the King in England, and translated by Mons. Tobiescon Duby, interpreter to his Majesty. These notaries attest that it is certain that this Genealogy was compiled at different times; first commenced in 1340 by an historiographer of Thomond, continued by other historiographers of the same country in 1450, then in the reigns of Henry VIII. and James I., and finished in 1700.

It ascribes to the House of MacMahon a common origin with that of Thomond, and as the first founder of both;

Brien Boru, or Boruma, monarch of Ireland, who died in 1033 [1014], from whom it thus deduces the line of posterity.

Teigeor Tadeé O'Brien, his eldest son, died in 1042, father of

Turlogh, or Terence O'Brien, monarch of Ireland; he died in 1086, after a reign of 12 years, leaving, among other children, Mortough or Moriart, who follows next, and Diermoid O'Brien, chief of the princes of Thomond.

Murtough O'Brien, King of Ireland died 1126 [1119].

Mahon O'Brien, one of his sons, continued the posterity which takes his name. He was father of

Morrough or Maurice MacMahon, Lord or Prince of Corkabaiskin, and grandfather of

Diermoid MacMahon, also Lord of Corkabaiskin. Murrough, or Maurice, son and heir of this latter, left Donogh, who follows next, and Mortough or Moriart, ancestor of a branch extinct in the fourth degree.

Donogh, or Donat MacMahon, Lord of Corkabaiskin, had also two sons, Diermoid, who follows next, and Turlogh, whose grandson died without children.

Diermoid MacMahon, Lord of Corkabaishin, left, among other children, Rory MacMahon, Lord of Corkabaishin, whose son

Donogh or Donat, Lord of the same territory, was father of Teige or Taidée, and of Donough or Donat, between whom he divided the principality of Corkabaishin, and gave to the elder the eastern part (since known by the name of Clondirala) of this seigneurial manor, and to the younger the western part: the latter founded a branch known by the title of Lords of [Western] Corkabaishin.

Teige or Taidée, Lord of Clondirala, continued the line of the eldest; his son and heir, also named Teige or Taidée, left

Turlogh or Terence, Lord of Clondirala, who had, among other children, Teige, who continued the branch of Lords of Clondirala, and

Donogh or Donat MacMahon, Lord of Feenish and of Rinanagh. This Donogh was father of

Brian or Bernard MacMahon, living in 1641. This date is the only one that is to be found in this long continuation of subjects since that of the death of Mortough, King of Ireland. [There are dates of several of these Lords in the Annals of the Four Masters.] He was father to

Mortough or Moriart, father of Murrough or Maurice, and grandfather of Murtough or Moriart, living in 1700, who is thus descended from Brien Boru in the twentieth degree.

(II.) The 2d Genealogy of the House of MacMahon is drawn from an original MSS. written on vellum, in the Irish language, about the commencement of the 15th century, known by the name of Book of Lecan, highly esteemed by the *savans* of Ireland, and deposited in the Irish library at Paris\*. It also commences at Brien Boru King of Ireland; relates the same facts as the preceding genealogy, and in the same order of filiation; and finishes with Donogh or Donat, son of Rory and father of Teige and Donough, but does not give any date.

(III.) The 3d is extracted from a manuscript of the end of the last century (preserved in the archives of M. le Maréchal de Thomond), which contains a collection of Genealogies drawn up in 1698 by an historiographer of Thomond. This one likewise commences at King Brien Boru; goes on to Turlogh, Lord of Clondirala, who, the first says, was son of Teige, and father of another Tiegé (from whom was derived the branch of the Lords of Clondirala) and of Donogh, Lord of Feenish and of Rinanagh, and it continues then the line of the posterity of Teige only to the children of Turlough, Lord of Clondirala, living in

\* This great record is now preserved among the MSS. of the Royal Irish Academy.

1698. It also agrees with that of the College of Dublin in what it contains, except that at the degree of Diermoid and Murtogh scions of the houses of Thomond and MacMahon it makes Deirmoid the elder son; neither does it give any date from that of the death of Murtough, King of Ireland, which happened in 1126 [1119], till the time of Turlogh (grandfather of Turlogh, Lord of Cloindirala, mentioned above) who was living, according to it, in 1625.

(IV. V.) The 4th and 5th Genealogies are exactly conformable to each other. One was certified and subscribed February 25th, 1743, by six Lay-Peers, three Archbishops, and four Bishops of Ireland; and the other was drawn up and certified September 27th, 1749, by John Hawkins, King-at-arms of Ireland.

They are both drawn up in the forms prescribed for those of the British Islands. That of 1749 was admitted in proof by a decree of the State Council of the King, 3d July, 1750; in the States of Burgundy, in 1757 and 1760; in the Order of the Noble Knights of Malta in 1761; and at the Chapter of Alix in 1762.

To strengthen these two genealogies, le Chevalier MacMahon adds copies, delivered in the same form, of some Acts, the most antient of which is of the year 1564; and the translation made in 1761 and 1763 by Mr. Markham, interpreter to the King, of three certificates given in 1751; the first by forty Knights of the Shire, members of Parliament, High Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and Gentlemen of the County Clare in Ireland; the second, by seven gentlemen of the House of MacMahon, dwelling in the same Kingdom; and the third by the Bishop of Killaloe, three Vicars-General of that diocese, and twenty inhabitants of the town of Ennis, in the same county; who all declare that this House is antient and illustrious, and most of them certify that Jean Baptiste MacMahon, Marquis d'Eguilly, the father of Messrs. de Viange and de Charnay, is descended from it.

As, according to strict rule, these titles and certificates could establish nothing beyond 1564, it is necessary to go back for the points anterior to Donogh, son of Rory, and father of Teige and of Donogh, in the third Genealogy above-mentioned, for those which are followed up as far as Turlogh, Lord of Clondirala, father of Teige and of Donough, to the first and third of these same Genealogies; and for the degrees of the same Donough to the two last. They assert the following facts:—

Turlogh, or Terence MacMahon, Prince of Clondiralâ, in the County of Clare, of most illustrious rank, died in 1472, and was interred at the Monastery of Ashelin, in the province of Momonia,

under a magnificent mausoleum which was still in existence in 1749. He had married Helen, daughter of Maurice Fitzgerald, Earl of Kildare (first Earl of the Kingdom of Ireland), and had by her Teige who was his principal heir, and whose posterity seems to be extinct, and

Donogh, or Donat MacMahon, also of most illustrious rank, who had for his share the lands of Feenish, in the County Clare, and of Rinanagh, in the County Limerick. [An error: Feenish and Rinanagh are both in Clare.] He had by Honora O'Brien of Thomond

Turlogh or Terence MacMahon, Esquire, Lord of Feenish, of the Island of Fines, &c. It is at this step that the proof by titles commences (and these titles are in agreement with the Genealogies of 1743 and 1749). This Turloch, together with many persons of his House, made a Convention with a Commissioner of Queen Elizabeth relative to the possession of his lands, by an act of the 15th February, 1564, in which his father and grandfather are mentioned. He died about the year 1577, leaving by Jane, daughter of John MacNamara, Esquire, among other children—

Bryan, or Bernard MacMahon, Esquire, Lord of Feenish, &c., who was born about 1563. He married Margaret, daughter of Donogh O'Brien, of Doagh, who made him father of

Mortough, or Moriart, MacMahon, Lord of Feenish, and of many other lands, of which he was dispossessed because of his fidelity to King Charles II., according to the certificate of forty members of the Parliament of Ireland, cited above. He had by Eleanor, daughter of William Nelan (Colonel of Cavalry in the service of King Charles I.),

Morrough or Maurice MacMahon, of Rinanagh, Esquire, who made his will in 1652, died in the following year, and was buried in the tomb of his family at Ennis; leaving by Helen, daughter of Maurice Fitzgerald, of Ballinoe, Esquire, among other children,

Mortough, or Moriart MacMahon of Tourdile, who married, Helen daughter of Emanuel MacSechy Esquire, and died in 1739 father, of two sons; the elder of whom, Morrough, or Maurice MacMahon, major of the regiment of cavalry of Alcantara, in Portugal, and Knight of the Order of Christ, left children by Catherine, daughter of John Cary, First Esquire to the Queen of Charles I., of England. The 2d was

Patrick M'Mahon, Esquire; who was married about the year 1707, to Margaret, daughter of John O'Sullivan. From this alliance sprang Jean Baptiste, who follows, and Maurice MacMahon, Lord of



Maguien, in Burgundy, who was in 1746 made Captain in the army raised in Scotland by Prince Edward, was afterwards captain in the Regiment of Ultonia in Spain, was naturalised in France by letters of the month of February, 1760, and was admitted the same year to the Estates of Burgundy, after having proved his noble descent on the grounds of that of his brother, hereafter mentioned, was named in 1761 captain in Fitz-James's regiment of cavalry in the King's service, and received the same year as Knight of Justice of the Noble Order of Malta, after having proved his nobility by the two Genealogies of 1743 and 1749, cited above.

Jean Baptiste MacMahon, Marquis d'Eguilly, in Burgundy, by letters of erection to this Estate in his favour, of the year 1763, was born in Limerick, in Ireland, in 1715, obtained from the King letters of naturalisation in France in 1749, was recognised as noble by name and arms, and maintained in his nobility of ancient extraction by decrees of the State Council of His Majesty, given July 3d, 1750, upon the Genealogy of 1743, mentioned herebefore, and was admitted to the Estates of Burgundy, in 1757, after having proved on the same grounds. He married, in 1750, Charlotte Le Belin, the peeress d'Eguilly, and of other lands, daughter of Jean Le Belin, Esquire, and of Anne de Morey, and had by her

1st. Charles Laure MacMahon, entitled Marquis de Viange, Captain in the Royal regiment of cavalry of Lorraine born May 8th, 1752;

2d. Maurice Francis MacMahon, called Count de Charnay, Captain of the Regiment Cuirassiers, born October 13th, 1754; and

3d. Three daughters received as canonesses of the noble Chapter of Alix.

By this exposition it is seen that of the five genealogies produced by the House of MacMahon, three retrace its descent to Brian Boru, monarch of Ireland, who died 1033, [1014] and continue it, that is, the first as far as Mortogh or Moriat, grandfather of Mons. le Chevalier MacMahon; the 2d to Donough or Donat, tenth ancestor of the same Chevalier; and the 3d to the time of Turlogh or Terence, who died in 1472, his seventh ancestor; and that the two others commence at this same Terence and continue to Jean, or Jean Baptiste MacMahon Marquis d'Eguilly his brother; that they agree among themselves in the facts that they relate, except in the order of birth of Diermoid and Mortough, sons of Turlogh, King of Ireland; that this agreement of these divers works compiled at different times by different authors, and preserved in different places of deposit, inspire

confidence in them; that the most ancient of the titles produced to strengthen these genealogies is but of the year 1564, but mentions Turlogh, the seventh ancestor of Mons. le Chevalier MacMahon; and finally that the certificates by which these Genealogies and Titles are accompanied show that the House of MacMahon united in favour of its claim the feelings of the orders of the Kingdom of Ireland.

As however these [earlier] genealogies are not accompanied by legal proofs, none but Irishmen can form a correct judgment upon them. Foreigners must confine themselves to a simple exposition of the facts which they contain.

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## MEMOIR No. II.

MEMOIR of the antiquity and origin of the MacMahons of Thomond in the Kingdom of Ireland.

The house of the MacMahons of Thomond in the Kingdom of Ireland takes its origin, like that of the O'Briens, princes and earls of Thomond, from Brien Boru, monarch of Ireland in 1014, according to Keating, and in 1033, according to the chronology of O'Flaherty. According to all the archives of Ireland, it separated from the house of O'Brien, about the commencement of the twelfth century, in the person of MAHON, son of Murtough O'BRIEN, last Monarch of the Kingdom, of the race of the O'Briens. This Mahon, according to the same archives, gave the name of MACMAHON (in English "Son of Mahon") to his posterity.

They have for their inheritance that part of the Kingdom of Thomond known through all time under the name of the principality of Corkabaiskin: which was divided, at the beginning of the fourteenth century, into Corkabaiskin east and Corkabaiskin west by Donagh, surnamed

Na Glaiche MacMahon, prince of Corkabaskin, in favour of his two sons, Teige MacMahon, surnamed the great, and Donagh Oge (the younger) MacMahon.

In 1555, Philip and Mary, then reigning in England, divided Ireland into counties and baronies, and, amongst others, constituted that part known by the name of Corkabaiskin east, possessed by the chief of this house, the Barony of Clondirala, and the western part, the Barony of Moyarta.

These two baronies remained in the possession of the different branches of the MacMahons up to the close of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Then Teige Keoch (one-eyed) MacMahon, and his son Turlogh, chief of the western district, joined the Spaniards under Don John De Aquila, before Kinsale, in 1601. The father having been killed at the siege of Dunboyne, the son passed into Spain; and all his lands were confiscated to the profit of Sir Daniel O'Brien, then Viscount of Clare, and brother of Donogh O'Brien, fourth Earl of Thomond.

The greater part of the barony of Clondirala was finally confiscated to the profit of the said Earl of Thomond; and the remainder continued in the possession of the chief and junior branches of this house (Mac-

Mahon) up to the reign of Charles the First, who, in 1628, created Teige MacMahon, Lord of Clondirala, a Baronet. This latter was finally despoiled, by the usurper Cromwell, of the portion which had escaped the fury of Queen Elizabeth.

The family of the MacMahons of Feenish and of Rinanagh, from which the Marquis d'Eguilly and the Chevalier MacMahon, of Burgundy, as well as their brother, the Bishop of Killaloe in Ireland, are descended, branched off from the House of Clondirala, about the year 1490: this branch was also despoiled of its inheritance about the same time by Cromwell.

Before entering into a detail of the proofs which the house of the M'Mahon's of Thomond produces to establish its genealogy, it is well to give a general idea of the nature of the proofs which it is possible for the ancient Irish to furnish. I must mention here that it is only right to distinguish completely these ancient Irish, ordinarily known under the name of Scoto-Milesians, to distinguish them, I say, from the English who have successively passed into Ireland, and who have established themselves there by force of arms. These latter, invested with civil and military commissions, rewarded by grants issued under the great seal of their Kings of lands which they have been able to usurp from time to time from the natives, have had the advantage of entailing their estates, of registering documents before public officers, of multiplying literal titles, and of following persistently the English or Norman laws and customs, which, in submitting titles and certificates to the form of registration in the public archives, gave them also the most solemn sanction. All these registries are still found in their archives with the exception of a great part consumed, from time to time, by fires.

The Scoto-Milesians, who defended themselves obstinately against the English, did not know these forms, and from the epoch of their conversion to the Christian faith, down to the unfortunate time when the power of the English had successively subjugated them, they have not had any other titles except private manuscripts. Each provincial king, and each chief, desired his historiographer to commit to writing all matters relating to his house. It is in these private histories that are found inscribed the properties, employments, marriages, births, deaths, achievements in war, and even remarkable events. To prevent all errors, or any usurpations, they nominated, every three years, in the national assemblies, and under the eyes of the King, Commissioners to examine and to verify the writings and histories, and it was after this rigorous inspection they were copied out on parchment, and in this state they were deposited in the archives of the province. This method, undoubtedly a most scrupulous one, was necessary to the principles of the Irish monarchy, which was elective; it was the legal form of the country, and so long as this monarchy existed, the only required form, and was always maintained by the chiefs of this nation, even from the invasion of the English in 1172, until the catastrophe of James II, which was shared by all his subjects faithful to their religion and their king.

The originals of these manuscripts are found in the public libraries of Dublin and Oxford, in the London Museum, in that of Lambeth, near London, in many other libraries of Europe, and at Paris at the Irish College.

The respect of the Dublin Society for these originals has been recently proved by the public invitation which it has given to all the learned of Europe, and to all possessors of these manuscripts to communicate them to it. Nobody is ignorant that this society, distinguished for its intelligence and acquirements, is composed of the ancient and modern noblesse of Ireland and Great Britain. The epochs are also known when these manuscripts were carried off from the monasteries which were then the dépôts of literature. This circumstance of the reigns of Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth is too painful to be recalled.

These are the manuscripts which have served through all time as the basis of the history of Ireland, and of that of the illustrious houses of the kingdom. They have always been received both in Ireland and England as proofs incontestible both of facts of history and of matters of genealogy pertaining to the ancient Irish. The Orders of Malta and of the Temple which had rich foundations in Ireland received no other titles for admission as Knights.

The Peers of this ancient Irish race who are still members of the Upper House of England and Ireland have not been able to produce any other proofs for their reception.

The House of Stuart, before mounting the throne of England, had no other proofs to furnish. The Maréchal de Thomond, who has been decorated with all the honours of France, has not been able to produce proofs of any other kind in this Kingdom. Since the establishment of the supremacy of the English in Ireland, they have joined to the ancient Irish custom, for preserving record of the births and origins of families, the tribunal of the Kings at Arms; and the Kings of England have commanded them by letters patent to collect them (these proofs) there. They have prescribed to them precautions the most exact, and have granted them the fullest authority for preserving the filiations of families, in order to prevent all those impostures which are only too often employed by pretenders to nobility. These same Kings at Arms, as well as those of England, have always followed, and still follow, the ancient monuments as literal proofs; and, on their sole inspection, France and all Europe would so receive them likewise, if it were in the way of taking cognisance of and collecting them. Besides, registries of marriage, baptism, and deaths were not in use in France itself until the end of the sixteenth century. It was utterly impossible for the Irish to enjoy this advantage. Always a prey to persecution under a proscribed religion, they are even deprived of the power of making civil contracts. Some individual agreements with the government, some inquisitions (post-mortem) established by the English, and fiefs without numbers, are the sole written titles.

- The proof of the Chevalier M'Mahon commences by
- Cotte A. two genealogies, which announce the same facts (a), the one certified and enscribed the 25th February, 1743, by six lay peers, three archbishops, and four bishops of Ireland; and the
  - Cotte B. other (b) drawn up and certified by John Hawkins, King
  - Cotte B. at Arms of Ireland: both (b) invested with the formalities prescribed for those of the British Isles; the second is admitted as proof by the decree of the King at Arms,
  - Cotte C. 1750: (c) also by the States of Burgandy, in 1757 and in



- Cotte D. 1760, also by the order of the Knights of Malta (d) in 1761 ;  
 Cotte E F by the chapter of Alix (e) in 1762 (f). To these are joined three certificates given with the genealogies in 1751 : the  
 Cotte G. first by (g) forty knights of shires, members of parliament, high sheriffs, justices of the peace, and gentlemen of the County Clare, in Ireland (h). The second by seven gentlemen of the house of M'Mahon, living in the same county; and  
 Cotte I. and the third (i) by the Bishop of Killaloe, then Vicar General of that diocese, and twenty-two respectable inhabitants of the town of Ennis in the same county; who declare that that house is ancient and illustrious, and assert that the father of Charles Laure M'Mahon, Marquis of Vianze, Captain of the Royal Lorraine Cavalry Regiment, born on the 8th  
 Cotte K. May, 1752 (k), and Maurice Francis M'Mahon, Count of Charney, Captain in the Regiment of Cuirasseurs, born on 13th October, 1754, are descended from it; and, also, that his great grandfather was buried in the mausoleum of the M'Mahons of Clondirala in their town, where no one not belonging to this house has ever been interred.
- Cotte L. To this is added a third genealogy (l) dated January 4th, 1775, drawn up and certified, likewise, by John Hawkins, King-at-arms of all Ireland, and according to the formalities prescribed by the laws of the British Kingdom. It authenticates from the archives published in the Kingdom of Ireland, the filiations of the house of M'Mahon from the time of Brian Boru, Monarch of all Ireland, who died in 1014, and Chief in common of the houses of O'Brien and of M'Mahon, down to Donough MacMahon, Lord of Fynish, and Rinana, second son of Terence or Turlough MacMahon, Prince of Clonderala, who died in 1472, and sixth ancestor of John Baptist M'Mahon, Marquis d'Eguilly, of Maurice M'Mahon, Knight of Malta, and Colonel of Cavalry, and of Peter Michael M'Mahon, Bishop of Killaloe.
- Besides this, the Chevalier M'Mahon proves by a succession of certificates, the degree of his filiation up to Terence M'Mahon of Clonderala, who died in 1472.
- Cotte M. And for this purpose, he produces the certificate of his  
 let degree baptism of the 8th of April, 1723, and that of John Baptist M'Mahon, his brother, Marquis of Eguilly, of the 23d June, 1715, both sons of Patrick M'Mahon, and of Margaret O'Sullivan, qualified nobles and Catholics.
- Cotte N. 2—The certificate of the family register of the said Patrick, containing the dates not only of his marriage on the 29th April, 1707, but also of the baptism of his children.
- 3—The extract of an act made by the said Patrick on the same day, 29th April, 1707, which states the fact of his marriage with Margaret O'Sullivan.
- Cotte O. 4—The original letter of the said Patrick M'Mahon, with the permission in presence of an apostolic notary, of the 18th September, 1749, granted to John Baptist, his son, to contract marriage with Charlotte Le Belin, Lady of Eguilly.

5—The marriage contract, drawn up on the 13th April, 1750, between the said John Baptist M'Mahon and the said Lady of Eguilly. The father of this Patrick was Moriart MacMahon, which is proved by the following documents:—

Vide  
Cotte N.

1—The certificate of the marriage settlements with Helena M'Sheehy, on the 6th day of February, 1680.

2—The certificates of the family register of the said Moriart M'Mahon containing the dates, not only of his marriage, but also of the birth of his children, amongst whom is found the said Patrick, born the 20th September, 1684, and Maurice, his eldest brother, Knight of Alcantara, born on the 10th August, 1682.

3—From an extract of the will of the said Moriart MacMahon, of the 20th May, 1739.

Cotte P.

4—The certificate of his death on the 20th Sept. in the same year, 1739.

5—The certificate of the death of Helen M'Sheehy, his wife, who died on the 2d April, 1740; the Maurice, who follows, was his father.

3d Degree.

In order to prove this we copy the certificate of death, which is thus:—Most noble Lord Moriart MacMahon, of Courdille, legitimate son of the most noble Lord Maurice MacMahon de Rinana, and of Helena FitzGerald, died in Limerick, in his house, on the 20th of September, 1739; and was buried in the parish church of St. John the Baptist, in the same town, at ten o'clock at night.

Cotte N.  
4th  
degree.

2.—The copy of the will of the said Maurice MacMahon, by which he bequeaths amongst others to his son Moriart &c.; his father was Moriart the First.

Cotte Q.

This is shown by a certificate taken in due form from the Chamber of Accounts, or offices of the Auditor-General of Ireland, and from a dismemberment made in 1640 of the County of Clare, by the Earl of Stafford, then Viceroy of this kingdom, where, it is stated, that Mour-tough, or Moriart, MacMahon, father of Maurice and son of Bernard MacMahon, had lost the estates and possessions by confiscations; his father was Bernard.

5th  
degree.

Bernard MacMahon is mentioned in this subjoined extract as being the father of Moriart, and the son of Terence II, who follows.

Cotte R.

By an Inquisition of August 1578, the 20th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the deputy of this Queen in Ireland obliged fourteen gentlemen assembled in the town of Ennis, County Clare, to take an oath declaring what were the manors, castles, and lands possessed by

6th  
degree.

Terence M'Mahon de Rinanagh, son of Donat, and grandson of Terence the First, who died on the 12th December, 1577, leaving his widow, Jane MacMahon, guardian of his only son, the above-mentioned Bernard MacMahon, then aged ten years, with all his possessions mentioned in this document.

7th degree. Donat MacMahon, father of Terence the Second, and son

of Terence the First, MacMahon de Clondirala, who died in 1472.

8th degree. The two degrees are enumerated in the above-mentioned deed of Inquisition 2.—By the agreement made on the 15th January, 1564, by the house of MacMahon with Queen Elizabeth, by which Terence MacMahon, son of Donat, and grandson of Terence the First, says this deed, promised, with all the other members of his house, specified in the act of submission, to remit to this Queen all their manors, castles, lands, and to take them back from her by letters patent, covenanting to pay yearly to her fifty-two marks of silver, and to keep for her service three lancers and six foot soldiers, &c.

Idem Cotte Q. It is then evident that, independently of the two genealogies recorded above, the filiation of the Chevalier MacMahon is proved up to Terence of Clonderala who died in 1472, by the two documents above cited, of 1564 and of 1578; because he and Donat his son, are called father and grandfather of Terence the Second, who is the contractor and the subject of this deed.

Cotte S. He produces also several certificates of Inquisition afterwards, of the confiscations of Terence in the reign of Elizabeth, James the First, and Cromwell, to authenticate not only the filiations of the elder branches and of the younger branches, but to also show the vast possessions of this house in the County of Thomond and of Limerick.

It is not just nor natural to exact from the Chevalier MacMahon the report from the archives of the English colony in Ireland, of the acts relating to the submission of his house in 1564 to the Queen Elizabeth, whilst before this epoch he held them only from his God and his sword, and had never acknowledged either the government or the laws of England.

But being of an ancient Irish house, he produced the titles in use from all ages in his house, written on parchment, corrected by the officers engaged by the State to guard the filiations of families, and to place them in the public depositories.

These genealogies are and always will be believed, and will have the same force in the British Isles that the contracts of notaries and other ancient deeds have in France; these titles are :—

Cotte T. 1.—A genealogy of the House of MacMahon and of its Branches from their separation from that of Thomond in the year 1100, to the time of James II., King of England. This genealogy is confronted and collated by two Dublin notaries with the ancient original manuscript on parchment, preserved as a monument of antiquity in the manuscript-room in the College of that city, containing the genealogies of all the noble families of the Province of Munster. It appears that this manuscript on parchment was drawn up in 1340 by Connor

MacGrath, historiographer of Thomond; that it contains a supplement, drawn up by the hand of Teige MacDaire MacBrodin, historiographer of Thomond, in the reign of Henry VIII., up to his time, that it is continued to the reign of James I., by Maolin Oge (the young) MacBrodin, and to that of James II., by Andrew MacCurtin, both historiographers of Thomond.

This document is authenticated by all the forms of proof required in France.

Cotte V.

2.—An ancient manuscript in the Irish language on parchment, taken from the manuscript-room of the College of Dublin, and deposited in the Irish College at Paris by King James II., the authenticity of which cannot be doubted, considering the great value the Dublin Society set upon it, and the solem application they have recently made to the said college to get a copy of it. This manuscript, which appears to have been written about the middle of the fourteenth century, contains the filiations of the different branches of the house of MacMahon from their separation from that of Thomond in 1100, down to the middle of the fourteenth century. It agrees in everything down to that period with the above-mentioned genealogy taken from the manuscript-room of Dublin (College).

Cotte W.

3.—A large volume in folio, entitled the genealogy of the house of Thomond, and of other ancient houses of the Scoto-Milesians of Ireland. This book is blazoned (with armorial bearings), and has been compiled by the labour of many years from the ancient manuscripts and monuments of Ireland, at the expense of Henry O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, in 1698. It is preserved, at present, at Paris, among the archives left by the late Marechal de Thomond. The filiation of the house of MacMahon is likewise followed up in that work, from the time of its separation from that of Thomond, in 1100, to the date of the book itself. It is found to agree with the other two genealogies given above.

The order, the succession, and the agreement of these ancient manuscripts on parchment, executed at different times, and centuries, prove the exactness with which the contemporary historiographers drew them up, and leave no doubt of the antiquity and illustrious rank of the house of the MacMahons of Thomond; and in joining them with the other titles given above, the result is a body of proof, in favour of the Chevalier MacMahon, as solid and complete as has ever been seen to emanate from the British realms—as well as in favour of his brother and nephews, who have given proofs besides, according to the regular order, of their rank, since the removal of the family to France.



## No. III. PETITION TO THE KING.

To the King.

SIRE,—May it please your Majesty, Maurice MacMahon, Knight of Malta, formerly captain of cavalry, in the regiment Fitz-James, supplicates, both for himself and for the Marquis d'Eguilly and the Bishop of Killera, his brothers, that he may be permitted to represent before all the Princes that they draw their paternal origin from the lords of Clondirala, in Ireland, who were descended from the lords and princes of Corkabaiskin, who were issue of the ancient monarchs of Ireland, as appears from the genealogical proof appended to this memoir. Their attachment to the Catholic religion and to their legitimate prince having deprived them of their possessions and titles, they find it impossible to establish their noble and ancient extraction by literal proofs. But they have proofs and testimonials beyond all suspicion, and admitted by the tribunals, which establish their nobility, not only from the year 1400, but even up to Brian Boru, Monarch of Ireland, in the beginning of the eleventh century; and they have the same proofs and are of the same family as the Earls of Thomond, whom your Majesty has honoured with your favour.

May it please your Majesty to order the examiners, appointed by the Court, for proofs of nobility for the honour of presentation, not to exact from the unfortunate children of the ancient monarchs of Ireland, impossible literal proof, but to content themselves with proofs of evidence founded on a great number of titles which will be judged sufficient to establish the ancient extraction of the faithful subjects of your Majesty, who will not cease to offer prayers to Heaven for your prosperity and preservation.

## MEMOIR

On the antiquity and illustrious rank of the house of the MacMahons—

On the impossibility of giving literal proofs; and on the sufficiency of the proofs presented by the Marquis d'Eguilly.

The proofs of nobility demanded by his most Christian Majesty for presentation are a well-established succession from father to son of noblemen or gentlemen since the year 1400, a succession of which each degree must be supported by from two to three original titles, or copies legally taken from the originals; this literal proof is demanded of all Frenchmen who aspire to the honour of presentation.

But it would seem hard that, under a Monarch so good and so gracious as ours, a proof so rigorous should be demanded for the Catholic subjects of the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, who not having in their own country any liberty of making "legal" contracts, and, consequently not having the privilege of being enrolled on the public records, cannot possibly furnish literal proofs, and who would, therefore, be excluded from the honour of the court precisely because they have always professed the religion of their fathers and have been inviolably attached to their legitimate prince.



The antiquity and illustrious rank of the house of MacMahon cannot be doubted. It is recorded in all the histories of Ireland and England, and in all the monuments which have been deemed worthy of being handed down to posterity. It is seen there that Brian Boru, common founder of the house of the Earls of Thomond, and of the house of the MacMahons, was King of Munster, and was elected Monarch of all Ireland at the commencement of the eleventh century; that Turlough O'Brien, his grandson, was also Monarch of all Ireland about the end of the same century; that this latter had two sons, one of whom was Diermoid O'Brien, founder of the branch of the Earls of Thomond, and Moirtagh O'Brien, founder of the Branch of the MacMahons, who succeeded his father in the monarchy of Ireland, a fact which has created a general belief that he was the eldest son; that the O'Briens of Thomond and the MacMahons have possessed vast estates in the Kingdom of Ireland, in the part where were situated the Counties of Clare and Limerick, in spite of the invasions of the English, whom they opposed with all their strength; and that they preserved the greater part of these possessions with all their rights up to the time of the submission which the law of the stranger forced them to make to Queen Elizabeth in the year 1564: that Mahon, founder of the MacMahons (son of Moirtagh, last monarch of Ireland) and his descendants have been lords and princes of Corkabaiskin, down to Donat II. MacMahon, who divided his principality of Corkabaiskin between his two sons, of whom the elder named Thadeus II. MacMahon had the eastern part, where was situated the Barony of Clondirala, from which he took his title of Lord of Clondirala; that the descendants of the said Thadeus II. MacMahon were Lords of Clondirala; that Terence II., MacMahon, his grandson, Lord of Clondirala, had two sons, of whom the elder was Lord of Clondirala, and the younger named Donat III. MacMahon, had for his share the lordship of Feenish, Rynanagh, and Bally-Etalla, which were held by his descendants up to the revolutions, when they were dispossessed for their attachment to their religion, and their zeal in service of their legitimate prince.

It is seen from documents of public notoriety, and from numerous attestations of persons the most respectable, that Bernard or Bryan MacMahon, fourth ancestor of the Marquis d'Eguilly, and grandson of Donat III. was Lord Suzerain of Finish, Vronan, (Island-magrath) \* \* \* \* \* Clare,\* and of the isle of Finnes, and of the town of Driminagh, and of several other lands in the County of Limerick, which belonged to this house from time immemorial; that Moriart I., son of Bernard, Maurice IV. his grandson, and Moriart II., great-great-grandfather, great-grandfather, grandfather and father of the M. d'Eguilly, were gentlemen recognised, reputed, and qualified by parentage—issue of the illustrious house and family of the MacMahons of Clondirala. It is seen also by the attestations of the chief branches of the house of MacMahon, and of Edward O'Brien, one of the principal chiefs of the branch of Thomond, that the Marquis d'Eguilly is their kinsman and of the

\* The Manuscript (French) is illegible here.

same house. The union of all these facts demonstrates a house most noble, most ancient, and most illustrious.

Can literal proof be given of the house of the MacMahons from the year 1400 up to the present day? It is a thing which will be deemed impossible, not only for the house of the MacMahons, but even for every other Catholic house of Ireland, when we consider the revolutions of the country and the manner in which the Irish Catholics have been treated by the English Protestant government. From the conquest of Ireland by King Henry II. down to the reign of James I. the Kings of England were really (or nominally) sovereigns of Ireland; but two-thirds of the kingdom was beyond their jurisdiction, and was governed by the law of the country, administered by magistrates nominated by the Irish chieftains. The war which raged continually in Ireland between the English, who tried to extend their limits, and the native Irish, who struggled to maintain their liberty and their possessions, did not at all conduce to the preservation of monuments. We know how intestine wars in France and elsewhere have caused destruction of precious things whose loss will be always regretted. We see by the proceedings of parliament, and by the public records, that the Irish of that time were regarded by the English as strangers, or rather as enemies of the crown of England, and they did them all the injury they could, in order that the English colonies alone, with a small number of Irish tributaries, who made submission and were naturalised, might profit by the protection of the English laws, and they treated all the rest as those of a conquered country for whom they had no respect. The ancient Irish records also have suffered much by a number of accidents and disastrous circumstances; and those which have remained whole concern only those in the kingdom subject to the English domination. By a concatenation of misfortunes the archives of Dublin, which contained the most ancient and precious literary records of Ireland, which one might have recourse to, in order to find the most minute of Irish titles, the original of which had been lost, were burnt in the fire of 1684, and the most ancient testamentary registry which had been begun in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. How then in the midst of an uninterrupted succession of misfortunes, in times of trouble and storms, during perpetual revolutions, could a Catholic family, constantly the butt of the Protestants, by whom they were surrounded, regarded by them as strangers and enemies to their religion and laws, a family who were always exposed to the insults and cruelties of a proud and imperious nation, who despoiled them of their properties and of the titles which enabled them to prove their right of possession, how could this family preserve the genealogy of their titles from a time so distant? It is then impossible for the MacMahons to prove their descent genealogically from the year 1400 by written contracts of marriage, by wills, by deeds of division of property, by certificates of baptism and other documents which form the literal proofs exacted by those whom the Court has appointed for the verification of the proofs of nobility.

But they can show that the proofs presented by the Marquis of Eguilly are of a nature to leave no doubt whatever that the house of MacMahon is both ancient and illustrious and that anyone who will look into the list(?) will find there an uninterrupted succession of most

distinguished nobles from the eleventh century to the present time. These proofs are the genealogical tree of the MacMahons, drawn up by the King at arms of Ireland, invested with all the forms necessary to prove its fidelity and exactness. In order to show the existence of the ancestors of the Marquis of Eguilly from Brian Boru, monarch of Ireland, down to Terence II. MacMahon, who lived in 1472, and for the rest from the time of the said Terence, Lord of Clondirala, down to to-day, the inquisitions reported in the proofs of nobility of the Marquis of Eguilly here annexed, and the titles cited in his memoir of 1763, of which the original will be exhibited to the examiners of proofs. I will pause here only to show of what authority the genealogical tree of the MacMahons, drawn up by the King-at-arms, of Ireland, ought to be.

It is matter of public notoriety that the proofs of nobility in the kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, are given only by certificates from the Kings-at-arms, commissioned by the British sovereigns to guard the ancient and modern records which contain the succession of noble families, and to furnish extracts from them which, when duly certified and legalised, are accepted as evidence by all the tribunals. These records, preserved by the King-at-arms, are, in point of fact, the most respectable and least equivocal genealogical proofs: they are the work of men of learning and integrity, deputed from the earliest times by the Court, in the different provinces of Great Britain for the purpose of establishing the rank of individuals, and especially of the nobility; which learned genealogists assemble at certain appointed times in the places indicated by the Sovereign to examine the writings of the different genealogists, and to inscribe in their presence in the registries the descent of noble families, which deserved to pass to posterity. We see by an heraldic manuscript found in the library of the Abbey of St. Germain des Prés, that the same thing was practised formerly in France; each province had its Herald-at-arms, whose office it was to collect all that concerned the nobility of the province. All these Heralds assembled at an appointed time in the town of Paris, and the Herald of the King-at-arms of the Isle of France, named Montjoye, who alone held the registries of the nobility, transcribed on the registries, or obliged his Lieutenant to transcribe, the new discoveries made by the private Heralds.

But as the best things are liable to abuse, and as it has been believed that the King-at-arms of Ireland and elsewhere have been known to have been sometimes deceived, we are willing—to avoid any surprise—that the certificates of the King-at-arms may not be looked upon as beyond suspicion until they shall have been placed in the registries, and invested with all the formalities, and without any contradiction from the chiefs of the Branches of the families of which those who have obtained these certificates profess to be members. It is from certificates of this kind, and not from impossible literal proofs that the antiquity and illustrious rank has been acknowledged of the house of the Earls of Thomond and of Lord Clare, whom his most Christian Majesty has overwhelmed with honours and benefits, as much in consideration of their birth, as in recompense for their military service and their attachment to their religion and their legitimate prince. It is also from certificates of this kind that the

ancient royal origin of the MacMahons should be acknowledged, who own the same founders as the Earls of Thomond, and one of whom is the Marquis of E'guilly, who has been acknowledged as a kinsman, not only by the principal branches of the MacMahons, but also by the Earls of Thomond, who do themselves the honour of declaring that he is descended, like them, from the ancient monarchs of Ireland.

These testimonial proofs (which would suffice before all the tribunals to establish the rank of persons for the succession of properties, and in no other circumstance,) could not be admitted by the examiners named by the court, who must be bound by the laws imposed on them, unless his majesty ordains otherwise. We venture to flatter ourselves that a monarch so generous and good as is ours will not exact impossible literal proofs from subjects who always, and in all circumstances, have exposed their lives in his service, and who are unable to give literal proofs, solely because they have been faithful to their religion and legitimate prince, and that on the strength of these testimonial proofs, beyond all suspicion, he will permit the unfortunate descendants of the ancient monarchs of a Catholic country to have the honour of being presented to the sovereign prince to whose service they are devoted.

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#### NO. IV.—NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE.

We Anthony and James Boland, Dublin Notaries by royal authority, duly admitted and sworn in the City of Dublin, in the Kingdom of Ireland, do hereby certify and attest, under our hands and seal of office, that the right honourable James, Earl of Clanbrassill, is chief remembrancer of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer in Ireland, and that William Hunter, Esquire, is also Register of said Court, and that the several signatures of Clanbrassill and William Hunter, being nine in number each, subscribed to the foregoing *nine copies and extracts taken from the records of their offices concerning the House of MacMahon, in the province of Thomond*, and comprised in No. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, containing in all thirteen written folio pages; to each of which we have subscribed the initial letters of our names, ne varientur, are the proper handwriting of the said James Earl of Clanbrassill, and of William Hunter, respectively, and that full faith and credit is and ought to be given to their Testimony in Judgment, Court, and thereout. We further attest that we have faithfully compared the foregoing Nos. 2 and 3, comprised in three written folio pages, to each of which we have likewise subscribed the initial letters of our names, with the originals registered in the *antient cartulary of the Monastery of Inish Clonroad in the province of Thomond, now preserved in the Manuscript Room of the Library of Trinity College, Dublin*, as also the foregoing abstracts taken from the Annals of Innisfallen, and those of the Four Masters with the originals preserved in said Manuscript Room of the Library of said Trinity College, Dublin, and comprised in [ ] written folio pages, to each of which we have likewise subscribed the Initials of our names, and that they are true and genuine copies and abstracts of the same, all



which we attest under our manual signatures and seal of office at Dublin, this [ ] day of March, one Thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

The Right Honourable Henry Howison, Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin, in the Kingdom of Ireland, do hereby certify that, Anthony and James Boland, who have subscribed the above attestation, are practicing public notaries by Royal authority, admitted and sworn in the City of Dublin and Kingdom of Ireland aforesaid, and that to all attestations, procurations, and other instruments by them done and perfected, full faith and credit is and ought to be given in Judgement, Court, and thereout. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused my seal as Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin to be hereunto affixed this [ ] day of March one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

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## A P P E N D I X :

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THE following are the original French documents of which we have given an English translation in the preceding pages :—

### MEMOIRE, No. I.

Memoiresur la preuve de Noblesse de M. MacMahon, chevalier de Malte, et de Messrs. MacMahon de Viance et de Charnay, ses neveux, qui demandent á monter dans les carrosses du Roi.

La Preuve de Messrs. MacMahon a pour base principale cinq Genealogies de leur maison.

La 1ere a été expediee le 29 Juillet 1772 sur un manuscrit écrit en Vélin, conservé au college de la Trinité de Dublin, par deux notaires de cette ville, legalisée par le Lord Maire de la même ville, par un Notaire Tabellion Royal á Londres, et par M. le Comte de Guines, ambassadeur du Roi en Angleterre, et traduite par M. Tobiescon Ruby, Interpréte de sa Majesté. Ces notaires attestent qu' il est constant que cette Généalogie a été composée en divers tems, d'abord commencée en 1340 par un Historiographe de Thomond, continuée par d'autres Historiographes du même Pays en 1450, puis sous les Regnes de Henry VIII. et de Jacques 1er. et finie en 1700.

Elle donne á la maison de MacMahon une origine commune avec celle de Thomond et pour premier auteur á l'un et á l'autre

Brién Boro, ou Boruma, Monarque d'Irlande mort en 1033 dont elle deduit ainsi la posterité.

Teïge, ou Tadée O'Brien, son fils aîné, mourut en 1042 pere de

Turlogh, ou Terence O'Brien, monarque d'Irlande. Celui-ci deceda en 1086, après un regne de 12 ans, laissant entr' autres enfans Mortough, ou Moriart, qui suit, et Diermoid O'Brien, chef des princes de Thomond.

Murtough O'Brien, Roi d'Irlande mourut en 1126.

Mahon O'Brien, l'un de ses fils, continua la posterité qui prit son nom. Il fut pere de

Morrough ou Maurice MacMahon, Lord ou Prince de Corkabaiskin, et ayeul de

Diermoid MacMahon, aussi Lord de Corkabaiskin.

Morrough, ou Maurice, fils et héretier de ce dernier, laissa Donogh, qui suit, et Mortough ou Moriart, auteur d'un Rameau éteint au IV<sup>e</sup>. degré.

Donogh ou Donat MacMahon, Lord de Corkabaiskin, eut aussí deux fils, Diermoid, qui suit, et Turlogh, dont le petit fils mourut sans posterité.

Diermoid MacMahon, Lord de Corkabaiskin, laissa entr' autres enfans Rory MacMahon, Lord de Corkabaiskin, dont le fils,

Donogh ou Donat, Lord, ou Seigneur de la même Terre, fut pere de Teïge ou Tadée, et de Donogh ou Donat, entre lesquels il partagea la Principaute de Corkabaiskin, donna á l'aîné le partee Orientale, qui fut depuis connue sous le nom de Cloindirala, de ce manoir seigneurial, et au puisné la partie occidentale : celui-ci forma une branche connue sous le titre de Seigneurs de Corkabaiskin.

Teïge ou Tadé, Lord de Cloindirala continua l'aîné ; son fils et heretier, nommé aussi Teïge, ou Tadée laissa

Turloghe ou Terence, Lord de Cloindirala, qui eut entr' autres enfans Teïge qui continua la branche des Seigneurs de Cloindirala, et

Donogh ou Donat MacMahon, Seigneur de Feenish et de Rinanagh. Ce Donogh fut pere de

Brian ou Bernard MacMahon, vivant en 1641 : cette datte est la seule qu'on trouve dans cette longue suite de sujets depuis celle de la mort de Mortough Roi d'Irlande : celui ci eut pour fils

Mortough ou Moriart, pere de Morrough ou Maurice, et aieul de Mortough, ou Moriart vivant, en 1700, qui est ainsi issu de Brien Boru au XXe. degré.

La 2eme Généalogie de la maison de MacMahon est tirée d'un Manuscrit original écrit sur velin en langue Irlandoise vers le commencement du XVe. siècle connu sous le titre de Livre Lecan, très estimé des sçavans d'Irlande et déposé à la Bibliothèque des Irlandois à Paris. Elle commence aussi à Brien Boru, Roy d'Irlande, rapporte ensuite les mêmes sujets que la precedente et dans le même ordre de filiation et finit à Donogh, ou Donat, fils de Rory et pere de Teige et de Donagh, mais ne rapporte aucune datte.

La 3me est extraite d'un Manuscrit de la fin du dernier siècle (conservé dans les archives de M. le Marechal de Thomond), qui contient un Recueil de Généalogies dressées en 1698 par un Historiographe de Thomond : Celle ci commence également au Roi Brièn-Boru, continue jusqu' à Turlogh, Lord de Cloindirala, que la 1ere dit fils de Teige et pere d'un autre Teige qui continua la branche des Seigneurs de Cloindirala et de Donogh (Seigneur) de Feenish et di Rinanagh, et continue ensuite la posterité de Teige seulement jusqu' aux enfans de Turlogh, Lord de Cloindirala, vivant en 1698. Elle est aussi conforme en ce qu' elle contient, à celle du collège de Dublin, excepté qu' au degré de Diermoïd et de Mortough, tiges des maisons de Thomond et de Mac-Mahon, elle donne l'ainesse à Diermoid. Elle ne rapport non plus aucune datte depuis celle de la mort de Mortough, Roy d'Irlande, arrivée en 1126, jusqu' à Turlogh (aieul de Turlogh, Lord de Cloindirala rapporté cy dessus, qu'elle dit vivant en 1625.

Les 4eme. et 5eme. sont parfaitement conformes entr'elles. L'une a été certifié et souscrite le 25 fevrier 1743, par six Paris Laïs, trois Archevêques et quatres Evêques d'Irlande, et l'autre a été dressée et certifiée le 27 Septembre, 1749, par Jean Hawkin, Roy d'armes d'Irlande.

Elles sont toutes deux revetues des formalités prescrites pourcelles des Isles Britanniques. Celle de 1749, a été admise en preuve par un arrêt du conseil d'etat du Roi, du 3 Juillet 1750, aux etats de Bourgogne en 1757 et 1760. dans l'ordre de Malte en 1761, et au chapitre d'Alix en 1762.

A l'appuy de ces deux Généalogies, M. le Chevalier Mac-Mahon joint des expéditions delivrées dans la meme

forme, de quelques actes dont le plus ancien est de l'année 1564, et les traductions faites en 1761 et 1763 par M. Markhan, Interpretre du Roi, de trois *certificats donnés en 1751, le premier par 40 Chevaliers de Shires, membres du Parlement Hautes Sherifs, de juges de Paix, et Gentils Hommes du Conté de Clare, en Irlande; le 2d par 7 gentils' hommes de la maison de Mac-Mahon, domiciliées au meme Royaume; et le 3e. par l'Eveque de Killaloe, 3-Vicaires généraux de ce diocèse, et par 20 habitans de la Ville d'Ennis, au même comté, lesquels déclarent tous que cette maison est ancienne et illustre, et assurent, la plupart, que Jean-Baptiste Mac-Mahon Marquis d'Eguilly, pere de Messrs. de Viange et de Charnay, en est issu.*

Comme, dans la regle stricte, ces titres et certificats ne peuvent rien établir de certain au delà de 1564, on est obligé de s'en rapporter, savoir, pour les sujets antérieurs à Donogh, fils de Rory et pere de Teige et de Donogh, au 3 Généalogies surmentionnées, pour ceux qui suivent jusqu' à Turlogh, Lord de Cloindirala, pere de Teige et de Donogh, aux premiere et troisieme des mêmes Généalogies; et pour les degrés du même Donogh aux deux dernieres. Elles énoncent les faits suivans—

Turlogh, ou Terence Mac-Mahon, Prince de Cloindirala, au Comté de Clare, qualifié très illustre, mourut en 1472 et fut enterré au Monastère d'Ashelin, dans la province de Momonie, sous un magnifique mausole, qui subsistoit encore en 1749. Il avoit épousé Helene fille de Maurice FitzGerald Comte de Kildare (1er. Comte du Royaume d'Irlande), et en avoit eû Teige, qui fut son principal heritier, dont la posterite paroît éteinte, et

Donogh, ou Donat MacMahon, aussi qualifié très illustre; que eut en partage les terres de Feenish, au Comté de Clare et de Rinanagh dans celui de Limerick.\* Il eut d'Honora O'Brien de Thomond

Turlogh ou Terence MacMahon, Ecuyer, Seigneur de Feenish, de l'Isle de Fines, etc. C'est a son degré que commence la preuve par titres (et ces titres sont d'accord avec les Généalogies de 1743 et 1749) Reüni à plusieurs sujets de sa maison, il fit une convention avec une Commissaire de la Reine Elisabeth relativement à la possession de ses terres, par acte du 15 fevrier 1564 dans lequel ses pere

\* This is an error: both Feenish and Rinanagh are in Clare.



et aieul sont rappelles. Il mourut vers l'année 1577 laissant de Jeanne fille de Jean MacMahon, Ecuyer, entr' autres enfans,

Bryan ou Bernard MacMahon, Ecuyer, Seigneur de Feenish &c, qui naquit vers 1568. Il épousa Marguerite, fille de Donogh O'Brien de Doagh, qui le rendit pere de

Mortough ou Moriart MacMahon, Seigneur de Feenish et de plusieurs autres terres, dont il fut depossédé à cause de sa fidelite au Roi Charles II., suivant le certificat de 40 Membres du Parlement d'Irlande cité ci-devant. Il eut d'Eleanore fille de Guillaume Nelan, Colonel de Cavalerie au service du Roi Charles Ier,

Morrough ou Maurice MacMahon de Rinanagh, Ecuyer, lequel fit son Testament en 1652, mourut l'année suivante et fut inhumé au tombeau de sa maison à Ennis, laissant d'Helene, fille de Maurice Fitzgerald de Ballinoe, Ecuyer, entr' autres enfans,

Mortough ou Moriart MacMahon de Tourdell, lequel eut pour femme Helene, fille d'Emanuel MacSheehy, Ecuyer, et mourut en 1739 pere de deux fils ; dont le 1er nommé Morrough, ou Maurice MacMahon major du Regiment de Cavalerie d'Alcantara, en Portugal, et Chevalier de l'Ordre du Christ, a laissé des enfans de Catherine, fille de Jean Cary, premier Ecuyer de la Reine, epouze de Charles Ier Roy d'Angleterre. Le 2d fut

Patrice MacMahon, Ecuyer, qui épousa vers l'année 1707 Marguerite fille de Jean O'Sullivan : de cette alliance sont nés Jean Baptiste, qui suit, et Maurice MacMahon, Seigneur de Maguien en Bourgogne, fait en 1746 Capitaine dans l'armée levée en Ecosse par le Prince Edouard, ensuite Capitaine au Regiment d'Ultonie, en Espagne, naturalise par Lettres du mois de Fevrier 1750, admis la même année aux Etats Bourgogne après avoir fait preuves de Noblesse sur le fondement de celles de son frère mentionnées cy afres, nommé en 1761 Capitaine dans le Regiment de Fitz-James, Cavalerie au service du Roy, et reçu la même année Chevalier de Justice de l'ordre de Malte, afres avoir fait preuve de Noblesse par les deux Généalogiés de 1743 et 1749 citées ci dessus.

Jean Baptiste MacMahon Marquis d'Eguilly en Bourgogne par lettres d'erection de cette terre en sa faveur de l'année 1763, naquit à Limerick, en Irlande, en 1715, obtint du Roi des lettres de Naturalité en 1749, fut reconnu pour noble de nom et d'armes et maintenu dans sa noblesse d'an-



cenne extraction, par arrêt du conseil d'Etat de sa Majesté, rendu le 3 juillet 1750 sur le vû de la Généalogie de 1743, mentionnée cy devant, et admis aux États de Bourgogne en 1757 apres avoir fait preuves sur le même fondement. Il a épousé en 1750 Charlotte de Belin, Dame d'Eguilly et autres terres, fille de Jean de Belin, Ecuyer et d'Anne de Morey, et en a eû

1st. Charles-Laure MacMahon, titré Marquis de Viange. Capitaine au Regiment Royal-Lorraine Cavalerie, né le 8 Mai 1752,

2d. Maurice-François MacMahon, appelé Comte de Charnay, Capitaine au Regiment des Cuirassiers, nê le 13 Octobre 1754,

Et 3 demoiselles reçues en 1762 chanoinesses du Chapitre noble d'Alix.

On voit par cet Exposé que des 5 Généalogies produites de la maison de MacMahon, 3 remontent sa filiation à Brien-Boro, monarque d'Irlande, mort en 1033, et la continuent : savoir, la premiere jusqu'à Mortough, on Moriart, ayeul de M. le chevalier de MacMahon ; la 2de, jusqu' à Donough au Donat, 10e, ayeul du même chevalier ; et la 3me à Turlogh on Terence, mort en 1472, son 7me ayeul, at quel es deux autres commence á ce même Terence et contiuent jusqu á Jean ou Jean Baptiste MacMahon, Marquis D'Eguilly, son frère ; Qu' elles sont conformes entré elles dans les faits qu' elles rapportent, excepté dans l'ordre de naissance de Diermoïd et de Mortough, fils de Turlough, Roy d'Irlande ; Qu' cette conformité de ces divers ouvrages composés en differens tems par divers auteurs et conservés en divers Dépôts, inspirent de la confiance en eux ; que le plus ancien des titres products à l'appuy de ces Généalogies n'est que de l'année 1564, mais rapelle Turloghh 7me ayeul de M. le chevalier de MacMahon ; Et enfin que les certificats qui accompagnent ces Généalogies et ces titres annoncent que la maison de MacMahon reunit en sa faveur le sentiment des differents ordres du royaume d'Irlande.

Comme cependant ces Généalogies ne sont point accompagnées de preuves, les Irlandois peuvent seuls porter un jugement certain sur ces ouvrages. Les etrangers doivent se borner à l'exposition des faits qu'ils contiennent.

## MEMOIRE, No. II.

MEMOIRE Sur l'ancienneté et L'origine des MacMahons de Thomond, au Royaume d'Irlande.

LA MAISON de MACMAHONS de THOMOND au Royuame d'Irlande tire son origine, de meme que celle des O'BRIENS Princes et Comtes de THOMOND, de BRYAN BORU, Monarque d'Irlande, en 1014, suivant Keating, eten 1033, suivant le chronologie d'OFlaherty. Elle s'en est separée, suivant toutes les archives d'Irlande, de la maison d'O'Brien vèrs le commencement du 12eme siècle en la personne de MAHOUN, fils de MORTOGH O'BRIEN, dernier Monarque de ce Royaume de la Race des O'Briens. Ce Mahoun, suivant les memes archives, donna le nom de MacMahoun, du fils de Mahoun, á sa postérité.

Ils ont en pour appanage cette partie de la principauté de Thomond connue de tout tems sous le nom de la principauté de Corkavaskin : laquelle fut divisée au commencement du 14eme siècle en Corkavaskin orientale et en Corkavaskin occidentale, par Donogh surnommé

Na Glaiche MacMahon, Prince de Corkavaskin, en faveur de ses deux fils, Teige MacMahon surnommé le Grand, et Donogh Oge (le Jeune) MacMahon.

En 1555 Philippe et Marie. alors regnante en Angleterre divisèrent l'Irlande en Comtés et en Baronies, et entr' autres constituerent cette parti connue sous le nom de Corkavaskin orientale possédée par le chef decette maison, en Baronie de Clondirala, et la partie occidentale en Baronie de Moyarta.

Ces deux Baronies restèrent en possession des différentes branches des Mac Mahons jusqu'à la fin du regne de la Reine Elizabeth; alors, Teige Keoch (Le Borgne) MacMahon, et son fils Turlogh, chef de la partie occidentale, se joignirent en 1601, aupres de Kinsale, aux Espagnols sous les ordres de Dom Juan de Aguilá; le pere étant tué au siège de Dunboyne, le fils passèrent en Espagne; ayant en toutes ses terres confisquées au profit du Chevalier Daniel O'Brien, puis Vicomte de Clare, et frère de Donogh O'Brien 4eme Comte de Thomond.

La Majeure partie de la Baronie de Clondirala, fut enfin confisquée au profit dudit Comte de Thomond, et la reste continua dans la possession du chef et des branches cadettes de cette maison jusqu' au regne de Charles 1er, qui crea Chevalier Baronet en 1628 Teige MacMahon, Lord ou Seigneur de Clondirala : celui-ci fut dans la suite spolié par l'usurpateur Cromwell de la portion qui a pu échapper a la fureur de la Reine Elizabeth.

La Branche des MacMahons de Feenish et de Rinana, dont descend le Marquis d'Eguilly et le Chevalier de MacMahon en Bourgogne, ainsi que leur frere l'Evêque de Killaloe en Irlande, est sorti de la maison de Clondirala vers l'année 1490 : cette Branche fut aussi spoliée de ses heritages au même tems par Cromwell.

Avant d'entrer dans le detail des preuves que la maison des MacMahons de Thomond produit pour établir sa genéalogie; il est à propos de donner une idee générale de la nature des preuves quil est possible aux anciens Irlandois de fournir. Je dois rapeller icy qu'il

est de toute justice de distinguer entièrement ces anciens Irlandois, connu originairement sous le nom de Scoto-Milesiens, de les distinguer, dis-je, des Anglois qui ont successivement passés en Irlande, et qui s'y sont établis à la faveur des armes angloises. Ceux-ci, revêtus de commissions militaires et civiles, récompensés par des concessions expédiées sous le grand sceau de leurs Roys, des Terres qu'ils ont pu envahir de tems en tems sur les nationaux, ont eu l'avantage de substituer des lieux, de passer des actes devant des officiers oublis, de multiplier des titres Littéraires, et de suivre perseveramment les lois et coutumes angloises ou Normandes, qui en soumettant les Titres et les actes à la forme de l'enregistrement dans les archives publiques, donnerent ainsi la sanction la plus solennelle. Tous ces actes se trouvent encore dans leurs archives à l'exception d'une grande partie qui a été consumée de tems en tems par des Incendies.

Les Scoto-Milesiens, qui se défendirent toujours avec opiniâtreté contre les Anglois, n'ont pas connus ces formes; et depuis l'Epoque de leur conversion à la Foy chrétienne, jusqu'aux jours malheureux où la puissance angloise les a successivement subjugués, ils n'ont eu d'autres Titres que des manuscrits particulières. Chaque Roi Provincial et chaque chef avoit son historiographe chargé de rédiger par écrit les objets relatifs à sa maison. C'est dans ces histoires particulières que se trouvent consignés les possessions de terres, les emplois, les mariages, les naissances, les morts, les faits de guerre et même les événemens mémorables. Pour prévenir toute erreur et toute usurpation, on nommoit tous les trois ans dans les assemblées nationales, et sous les yeux de Monarque, des Commissaires, à fin d'examiner et de vérifier les écrits des historiographes; et c'étoit d'après cette formalité rigoureuse qu'on les faisoit transcrire sur velin et que dans cet Etat on les déposoit dans les archives de chaque province. Cette méthode, sans doute, très scrupuleuse, étoit nécessaire aux principes de la Monarchie Irlandoise, qui étoit élective; c'étoit la forme légale du pays, et tant que cette Monarchie a existé, la seule réquise, et toujours maintenue par les chefs de cette nation, même depuis l'invasion des Anglois en 1172, jusqu'à la Catastrophe de Jacques II., partagé par tous les sujets fidèles à leur Religion et à leur Roi.

Les originaux de ces manuscrits se trouvent dans les Bibliothèques publiques de Dublin et de Oxford, au museum de Londres, à celui de Lambeth auprès de Londres, dans plusieurs autres Bibliothèques de l'Europe et à Paris au Collège des Irlandois.

Le respect de la société de Dublin pour les originaux a été prouvé récemment par l'invitation publique qu'elle a fait à tous les sçavants de l'Europe, à tous les possesseurs de ces manuscrits, de les lui communiquer. Personne n'ignore que cette société illustrée par ses lumières et par ses connoissances, est composée de la noblesse ancienne et moderne de l'Irlande et de la Grande Bretagne. On connoit aussi les époques où ces manuscrits furent enlevés des monastères d'hommes, où se trouvoit le dépôt de la littérature. Cette circonstance des Regnes d'Henri VIII. et de la Reine Elizabeth est trop triste à rappeler.

Ce sont ces manuscrits qui ont servi en tout tems de base à l'histoire d'Irlande et à celle des maisons illustres de ce Royaume. Ils ont toujours été reçus, tant en Irlande qu'en Angleterre, comme preuves incontestables et des faits historiques et des matières

Genealogiques concernans les anciens Irlandois. Le ordre de Malthe et du Temple qui se trouvoient très richement fondeés en Irelande ne recevoient point d'autres titres pour y être admis Chevalier.

Les Paires de cette ancienne race Irlandois, qui se trouvent encore dans les chambres-hautes d'Angleterre et d'Irlande, n'ont pas pu produire d'autres preuves à leur reception.

La Maison de Stuart, avant de monter sur le trone d'Angleterre, n'avoit point d'autres preuves à fournir. Le Maréchal de Thomond, qui a été décoré de tous les honneurs de la France, n'a pas pû en produire d'une autre nature en ce Royaume. Depuis la superiorité des Anglois en Irlande, ils ont joint à l'ancienne coutume Irlandoise, pour soutenir les naissances et les origines des familles, le Tribunal des Rois d'armes, et les Rois d'Angleterre les ont chargés par Lettres patentes d'y cœuiller; ils leur ont prescrit les précautions les plus exactes et leur ont donnée l'autorité la plus étendue pour conserver les filiations des familles afin de prevenir toutes les impostures qui ne sont que trop souvent employées par les pretendants à noblesse. Ces mêmes Rois d'armes, ainsi, que ceux d'Angleterre ont toujours suivi et suivent encore ces anciennes monumens comme preuves litterales; et à leur inspection seule, La France et toute l'Europe les recevrait de même, si cette étoit à portée de les connoître et de les recifier. D'ailleurs les Registres de Mariage, de Baptême et de Morts n'ont été en usage qu'à la fin du Seizieme siecle même en France. Il a été de toute impossibilité aux Irlandois de jouir de cette avantage. Toujours en proyé aux persecutions sous une Religion proscrite, ils sont même privé de la faculté de contracter civilement. Quelques accordés respectifs avec le Gouvernement, quelques Enquêtes (post mortem) établies par les Anglois, et des fies à l'infini, sont les seules titres écrits.

La preuve du Chevalier MacMahon commence par deux

- Cotte A. Genealogies qui énoncent les memes faits (a), l'une certifiée et souscrite le 25 Fevrier 1743 par six pairs laïques, trois Archeveques et quatre Eveques d'Irlande; et
- Cotte B. l'autre (b) dressée et certifiée le 27 Septembre 1749, par
- B. Jean Hawkins, Roi d'armes d'Irlande; toutes deux (b) revetués des formalités prescrites pour celles des Isles Britanniques; la seconde admise en preuve par arrêt
- Cotte C. du Roi, de l'année 1750; (c) aux Etats de Bourgogne en
- Cotte D. 1757 et en 1760; dans l'ordre de Malthe (d) en 1761; au
- Cotte E F chapitre d'Alix (e) en 1762, (f). On y joint trois certificats donnés avec la Généalogie en 1751: le premier par
- Cotte G. (g) quarante chevaliers de shire, membres du Parlement, hauts sherifes, juges de paix et gentilhommes du comté
- Cotte H. de Clare en Irlande. (h) le second par sept gentilhommes de la maison de MacMahon domiciliés en même comté; et
- Cotte I. le troisieme (i) par l'Eveque de Killaloe, trois vicaires Généraux de ce Diocèse, et vingt-deux habitans notables de la ville d'Ennis au meme comté; les quels declarent tous que cette maison est ancienne et illustre, et attestent que le Pere de Charles Laure MacMahon, marquis de Viange, Capitaine au régiment Royal Lorraine cavalerie, né le 8 May 1752 (k) et et Maurice François MacMahon Comte de Charnay, Capitaine au Régiment des Cuirasiers,
- Cotte K.



né le 13 Sbre 1754 en est issu, et attestent encore, que son bisayeul, mort en 1650, fut inhumé dans le Mauzole des MacMahons de Clonderala dans leur ville, un nulle autre que cette maison n' a jamais été enterré.

Cotte L. A ce piece on vient de joindre, (1) une troisieme Généalogie en datte du 4 Janvier 1775, dressée et certifiée pareillement par Jean Hawkins Roi d'armes de toute l'Irlande, et revetue des formalités prescrites par les lois du Royaume Britannique. Elle constate, d'après les archives publiques du Royanne d'Irlande, les filiations de la maison de MacMahon, depuis Bryan Boru, monarque de toute l'Irlande, mort en 1014, et chef commun des maisons d' O'Brien et de MacMahon, jusqu' à Donat ou Donogh MacMahon, Seigneur de Fynish et de Reinana, (2d fils de Terence ou Turlogh MacMahon Prince de Clonderala, mort en 1472) et sixieme ayeul de Jean Baptiste MacMahon, Marquis d'Eguilly, de Maurice MacMahon Chevalier de Malthe et Colonel de Cavalerie, et de Pierre Michel MacMahon, Eveque de Killaloe.

Outre ce, le chevalier MacMahon fait voir par une suite d'actes, les degrés de sa filiation jusqu' à Terence MacMahon de Clonderala, mort en 1472.

Cotte M. Et pour cette effet, il produit son extrait Baptistaire du  
1et Degré 8 Avril 1723, et celui de Jean Baptiste MacMahon, son frère, Marquis d'Eguilly du 23 Juin 1715, tous deux fils de Patrice MacMahon et de Margueritte O'Sullivan, qualifiés nobles et catholiques.

Cotte N. 2—L'Extrait du registre domestique dudit Patrice, contenant les dattes, tant de son mariage du 29 Avril 1707, que du Baptême de ses Enfants.

3—L'Extrait d'un acte fait par le dit Patrice à même jour, 29 Avril, 1707, qui rapelle l'acte de son accord de mariage avec Margueritte O'Sullivan.

Cotte O. 4—La lettre en original dudit Patrice MacMahon, avec la permission pardevant un notaire apostolique du 18<sup>e</sup>. Sbre 1749, accordeé à Jean Baptiste son fils, pour contracter mariage avec Charlotte Le Belin, Dame d'Eguilly.

5—Le contrat de mariage passé le 13 Avril 1750, entre ledit Jean Baptiste MacMahon et laditte Dame d'Eguilly.  
Vide Cotte N. Ce Patrice a eu pour pere Moriart MacMahon: cela se prouve par les pièces suivantes.

1—L'Extrait des conventions de mariage avec Helene MacSheehy du 6eme jour de fevrier 1680.

2—L'Extrait du registre domestique dudit Moriart MacMahon, contenant les dattes, tant de son mariage que des naissances de ses enfans, parmi lesquels se trouve ledit Patrice né le 20 Septembre 1684, et Maurice son frère aîné, chevalier d'Alcantara, né le 10 d'aout 1682.

3—L'Extrait du Testament du même Moriart MacMahon du 20 May 1739.

Cotte P. 4—Son extrait mortuaire du 20 Septembre, même année 1739.



5—L'extrait mortuaire de Helene MacSheehy, son épouse, du 2 Avril 1740; et il eut pour pere Maurice qui suit.

3eme Degré. Pour preuve on rapporte l'extrait mortuaire cy dessus, qui dit, que le très noble Seigneur Moriart MacMahon de Courdille, fils legitime de très noble Seigneur Maurice MacMahon de Rimanagh et d'Heleine FitzGerald, est mort à Limerick dans sa maison, le 20 7bre 1739; et est inhumé dans l'Eglise de St Jean Baptiste de la paroisse de la même ville à 10 heures du soir.

Cotte N. 2.—L'Expedition du Testament dudit Maurice  
4eme MacMahon par lequel il legue entr' autres à son fils  
Degré. Moriart etc; il eut pour pere Moriart Ier.

Cotte Q. Cela se voit par un extrait levé en due forme de la Chambre des Comptes, ou offices de l'auditeur général d'Irlande, et un demembrement fait en 1640, du Comté de Clare, par le Comte de Stafford, alors Viceroi de ce Royaume, ou il est dit que Mortough ou Moriart MacMahon Pere de Maurice et fils de Bernard MacMahon, avoit perdu par confiscations ses terres et possessions: il eut pour pere Bernard.

5eme Bernard MacMahon est rapellé dans l'acte cy dessus pour  
Degré. être le Pere de Moriart et le fils de Terence II. qui suit.

Cotte R. Par une Enquête du l'aout 1578 vingtieme du Regne d'Elizabeth, le député de cette Reine en Irlande fit preter serment a 14 Gentilhommes assemblé, dans la ville d'Ennis, Comté de Clare, pour lui declarer quels étoient les Manoirs, Chateaux et Terres qu' avoit possédé

6eme Terence MacMahon de Rinanagh, fils de Donat et petit-  
Degré. fils de Terence Ier mort le 12 Decembre 1577, laissant sa veuve Jeanne Macnamara tuteure de son fils unique, cy dessus dénommé Bernard MacMahon, alors agé de 10 ans, toutes ses possessions sous rapportée dans cet acte.

7eme Degré. Donat MacMahon Pere de Terence 2d et fils de Terence  
8eme Degré. Ier MacMahon de Clonderala mort en 1472.

Les deux degres sont rapellés dans l'acte d'Enquête cy dessus 2—par la convention faite le 15 premier 1564 par la maison de MacMahon avec la Reine Elizabeth, par laquelle Terence MacMahon fils de Donat et petit fils de Terence Ier, ainsi quil est dit par l'acte, promet avec toutes les autres branches de sa maison, spécifies dans l'acte de soumission, de remettre à cette Reine tous leurs manoirs, chateaux, terres et possessions, et de les reprendre ensuite d'Elle par lettres patentées, et de lui payer, et à ses hoires à perpetuité, annuellement cinquante deux mars d'argent, et de lui entretenir trois Lanciers et six Fantassins &c.

Idem Il est donc évident qu'indépendamment des deux  
Cotte Q. Généalogies raportées en tête, la filiation du chevalier MacMahon est prouvé jusqu'à Terence de Clonderala mort en 1472. Par les deux actes cy dessus de 1564 et de 1578; puisque lui et Donat son fils sont rapellés comme Père et grand Père de Terence second qui est le contractant et le sujet de cet acte.

Cotte S. Il produit encore plusieurs actes d'Enquêtes après et des confiscations de TERENCE par les Regnes d'Elizabeth, de Jacques Ier, et de Cromwell, qui constatent non seulement les filiations de la Branche aînée et des Branches cadettes, mais démontrent les vastes possessions des sa maison dans la Comté de Thomond et de Limerick.

Il n'est pas juste ni naturel d'exiger du chevalier MacMahon de rapporter des archives de la colonie anglaise en Irlande, des actes antérieures à la soumission de sa maison en 1564 à la Reine Elizabeth, puisqu'avant cette Époque, elle ne tenoit ses possessions que de Dieu et son épée, elle n'avoit pas reçu ni reconnu le gouvernement ni la législation anglaise.

Mais comme étant d'une ancienne maison Irlandaise, il produit les Titres en usage de toute ancienneté de sa nation, qui, sont les manuscrits sur Velin, redigés par des officiers chargés et gagés par l'Etat pour garder les filiations des familles et de les consigner dans les dépôts publics.

Ces généalogies, ainsi dressées, font et feront toujours foi, et auront la même force dans les Isles Britannique que les contrats notariés et autres anciens actes ont en France; ces titres sont:

Cotte T. 1—Une généalogie suivie de Maison de MacMahon et de ses Branches, depuis leur séparation de celle de Thomond, l'année 1100, jusqu' à l'Époque de Jacques II., Roi d'Angleterre. Cette généalogie est confrontée et collationnée par deux notaires de la ville de Dublin à l'ancien original manuscrit sur velin, conservée comme monument d'antiquité dans la salle des manuscrits du Collège de la ditte ville, contenant les Généalogies de toutes les familles nobles de la Province de Momonie. Il conste que ce manuscrit sur velin fut dressé en 1340 par Connor MacGrath, historiographe de Thomond, qu'il contient un supplément rédigé de la main de Teige MacDaine MacBrodin, historiographe de Thomond sous le regne de Henri VIII., jusqu' à son tems, qu'il est continué jusqu' au Regne de Jacques Ier. par Naolin, le jeune MacBrodin, et jusqu' à celui de Jacques II. par André MacCurtin, tous deux historiographes de Thomond.

Cette piece est revetue de toutes les formes probantes en France.

Cotte V. 2—Un ancien manuscrit en la langue Irlandaise sur velin, enlevé de la salle des manuscrits du Collège de Dublin, et déposé au Collège des Irlandois à Paris par le Roi Jaques, II dont on ne sauroit douter de l'authenticité par le cas précieux que la Société Litteraire de Dublin en fait, et par l'adresse solennelle qu'il vient de faire audit collège pour en obtenir une copie. Le manuscrit, qui paroît être écrit vers le milieu du 14eme siècle, contient les filiations des différentes branches de la maison de MacMahon depuis leur separation de celle de Thomond en 1100, jusqu' au milieu du 14eme siècle, il est conforme

en tout jusqu' à cette époque à la suditte généalogie prise dans le salle de manuscrits de Dublin.

Cotte W. 3—Un grand volume infolio intitulé la généalogie de la maison de Thomond et des autres anciennes maisons des Scoto-Milesiens en Irlande. Ce livre est blazonné et à été extrait par un travail de plusieurs années des anciens manuscrits et monuments d'Irlande, aux frais de Henry O'Brien Comte de Thomonde, en 1698. Il est conservé, aujourd'hui, à Paris, dans les archives laissées par le feu Maréchal de Thomond. La filiation de la maison de MacMahon y est pareillement suivie depuis sa separation de celle de Thomond en 1100, jusqu' à la datte du livre. Elle s'y trouve conforme aux deux autres généalogies cy dessus.

L'ordre, la suite et la conformité de ces anciens manuscrits survelin, faits en différens tems et siècles, prouve l'exactitude avec laquelle les historiographes contemporains les dressaient et ne laissent pas douter combien la maison des MacMahons de Thomond est ancienne et illustre, et en les réunissant aux autres titres cy dessus, il en résulte en faveur du Chevalier MacMahon un corps de preuves aussi solides et aussi complet qu'on aye vu jusqu' à présent sortir des royaumes Britanniques, ainsi que pour son frere et pour ses neveux qui ont prouvé d' ailleurs selon la règle ordinaire depuis que la famille et transplantée en France.

### NO. III. PETITION TO THE KING.

Au Roi.

SIRE,—Supplie, très humblement, VOTRE MAJESTE, Maurice MacMahon chevalier de Malte, ci devant Capitaine de cavalerie au regiment de Fitz-James, tant pour luy que pour le S. d'Eguilly et le S. Eveque de Killaloe ses freres, qu'il lui soit permie de représenter au meilleur de tous les Princes, qu'ils tirent Leur Origine paternelle des Lords de Clondirala en Irlande, lesquels étoient sortie des Lords et Princes de Corcabaiskin, lesquelles étoient issu des anciens Mōnarques d'Irlande, comme il appert par la preuve genealogique et par le Memoire cy-joint. Et leur attachement à la religion catholique et leur prince legitime, les ayant privé de leurs biens et de leurs titres, ils se trouvent dans l'impossibilité de constater leur Extraction noble et ancienne par les preuves Litterales. Mais qu'ils ont des preuves et testimoniaux, hors de toute suspicion, et admise dans tous les tribunaux qui constatent leur noblesse, non seulement depuis l'an 1400, mais jusqu' à Bryan Boroime, monarque d'Irlande au commencement du XIe. Siecle; qu'ils ont les memes preuves et sont de la meme famille que les Comtes de Thomond que Votre Majesté a honoré de ses bontes.

Qu'il plaise à Votre Majesté de faire ordonner aux verificateurs nommes par la cour, des preuves de noblesse pour l'honneur de la presentation, de ne point exiger des Enfans Infortunés des anciens

Monarques d'Irlande une preuve Litterale Impossible, et de se contenter de la preuve testimoniale appuyée d'un grand nombre de titres, qui sera jugée suffisante pour constater l'ancienne Extraction des sujets fideles de Votre Majesté qui ne cesseront d'adresser des Vœux au ciel pour sa prosperité et sa Conservation.

### Memoire.

Sur L'anciennete et l' illustration de la Maison des MacMahon.

Sur l'impossibilité d'en faire la preuves litterale, et sur la suffisance des preuves presentées par Mr. Le Marquis d'Eguilly.

Les preuves de noblesse exigés par Sa Majesté très chretienne pour la presentation sont une suite bien prouvée de pere en fils de nobles ou gentilhommes depuis l'an 1400, dont chaque degré soit appuyé de de 2 à 3 titres originaux ou Expéditions originales faites legalement sur les originaux; cette preuve litterale est exigée pour tous les François qui aspirent à l'honneur de la presentation.

Mais il paroîtroit dur que sous un Monarque aussi bon et aussi bien-faisant que le nôtre, on exigent une preuve aussi rigoureuse pour les sujets Catholiques des trois Royaumes d' Angleterre, d'Ecosse, et d'Irlande, qui n'ayant eu dans leur pays aucune liberté de contracter, et ne pouvant par conséquent etre inscrits dans les registres publics, ne peuvent etre dans la possibilité de faire des preuves litterales; et seroient exclus de l'honneur de la cour precisement parce-qu'ils ont toujours professé la religion de leurs peres et qu'ils ont été invariablement attachés à leur prince Legitime.

On ne peut douter de l'ancienneté et de l'illustration de la maison des MacMahon. Elle est consignés dans toutes les histoires d'Irlande et d'Angleterre, et dans tous les monument qui ont été jugés digne de passer a la posterité. On y voit que Brian Boroime, auteur commun de la maison des Comtes de Thomond et de la maison des MacMahon, étoit roi de la Momonie, et qu'il fut élu monarque de toute l'Irlande au commencement du XI siècle: que Tirlogh O'Brien, son petit fils fut aussi Monarque de toute l'Irlande sur la fin du meme siecle: que celui cy eut deux fils dont l'un fut Diermoid O'Brien auteur de la Branche des Comtes de Thomond; et Moirtagh O'Brien auteur de la Branche des MacMahon, qui à succédé a son pere dans le monarchie d'Irlande, ce qui a fait croire à plusieurs qu'il étoit l'ainé de la famille; que les O'Brien de Thomond, et les MacMahon ont possédé des biens immenses dans le Royaume d'Irlande, dans la partie ou étoient situés les comtés de Clare et de Limerick, malgré les invasions dans Anglois auxquels ils se sont opposés de toutes leur forces; et qu'ils ont conservé le pluspart de ses possessions avec tous leur droits jusqu' a la soumission que la loy du plus fort les a contraint de faire a la reine Elizabeth, l'an 1564: que Mahon, auteur des MacMahon, fils de Moirtagh dernier Monarque d'Irlande, et ses descendans ont été Lords et Princes de Corcabaiskin jusqu' a Donat II. MacMahon qui partagea sa principauté de Corcabaiskin à ses deus fils dont, l'ainé nommé Thadée II. MacMahon, eut la partie orientale ou étoit la Baronie de Clondirala, dont il prit sa titre de Lord de Clondirala; que les descendans dudit Thadee II. MacMahon furent Lords de Clondirala. Que Terence II. MacMahon son petit fils Lord de Clondira eut deux fils, dont l'ainé fut Lord de Clondira, et le puisné nommé Donat III.



MacMahon eut en partage la seigneurie de Feenish, Rymnaugh et Balli Etalla qui furent possédées par ses descendans jusqu'aux revolutions ou ils en furent dépossédés pour leur attachement à leur religion et leur zèle au service de leur prince Légitime.

On voit par des actes de notoriété publique et par des attestations en grand nombre des personnes les plus respectables que Bernard ou Bryan MacMahon quatr'ayuel du Sieur Marquis d'Eguilly et petit fils de Donat III. étoit. Seigneur Suzerain de Finish, Tinish, Vronan, (Island-magraith). [Manuscript indistinct here.]

\* \* \* \* de Clare et dans l'isle de finnes et de la ville de Drimagh et de plusieurs autres terres au comté de Limerick qui étoient dans sa maison de tems immémorial; que Moriart Ier. fils du Bernard, ayeul et pere du S. Marquis d'Eguilly étoient tous gentilhommes, reconnues réputés et qualifiés Beli,\* issus de l'illustre maison et famille des MacMahon de Clondirala. On voit encore pas les attestations des chefs Branches de la Maison des MacMahon; et d'Edouard O'Brien, un des principaux chefs de la branche de Thomond, que le S. Marquis d'Eguilly est leur parent, et de la même maison. L'assemblage de toutes ces choses démontrent une maison très noble, très ancienne, et très illustre.

Peut-on faire la preuve Litterale de la Maisson des MacMahon depuis L'an 1,400 jusqu'aujourd'hui? C'est une chose qu'on jugera impossible, non seulement pour la maison des MacMahon, mais encore pour toute autre maison catholique d'Irlande, quand on fera reflexion sur toutes les revolutions du Pays et sur la maniere dont les Catholiques Irlandois ont été traités par le Gouvernement des Anglois Protestant. Depuis la reduction d'Irlande par le roi Henri II. jusqu'au regne de Jacques Ier, les Rois d'Angleterre étoient réellement (?) souverains d'Irlande, mais les deux tiers du Royaume n'étoient pas sous leur juridiction et étoient gouvernés par la loi du pays que des magistrats, nommés par les chefs Irlandois, faisoient executer. La guerre qui étoit continuellement en Irlande entre les Anglois qui tâchoient d'étendre leurs limites, et les Irlandois nationaux qui s'efforcèrent de maintenir leur Liberté et leurs possessions, n'étoit point propre à conserver des monumens. L'on sçait combien les guerres intestines en France et ailleurs ont fait perir des choses précieuses et dont la perte sera toujours regrettée, l'on voit par les traits du Parlement et par les Registres publics que les Irlandois dans ce tems-la étoient regardés par les Anglois comme des Etrangers ou plutôt comme des Ennemis de la couronne d'Angleterre, qu'on leur faisoit tout le mal possible, que les colonies angloises seules, avec un petit nombre de tribus Irlandoises soumises et affranchies, pouvoient profiter de la protection des lois angloises, et qu'on usoit de tous le reste comme d'un pays conquis ou rien n'étoit respecté. Aussi les Registres anciens d'Irlande ont beaucoup souffert par une suite d'accidens et de circonstances facheuses; et ceux qui restent en entier ne regardent que les parties du Royaume qui étoient sujettes à la domination angloise. Par surcroit de malheurs les archives de Dublin, qui contenoient les monumens litteraires les plus anciens et

\* Not French properly—means “ventre annoblit” “issu de ventre d'un noble”—it is in fact BELLY.



les plus précieux d'Irlande, ou l'on pouvoit avoir recours pour trouver les minutes des Titres dont on avoit perdu les originaux, furent consumés dans l'incendie de 1684 et le registre testamentaire le plus ancien qu'on ait commencé au tems de la Regne Elizabeth. Comment, dans une suite non interrompue de malheurs durant des tems de troubles et d'orages, dans des revolutions perpetuelles, une famille catholique continuellement en butte aux Protestans dont elle étoit environnée, regardée par eux meme comme étrangere et comme ennemie de leur religion et de leur lois, qui, toujours exposée aux insultes et aux duretes d'une nation fiere et imperieuse, qui la depouille de ses biens et des titres qui en constatoient la propriété, auroit-elle pu conserver des titres Généalogiques depuis un tems si reculé ! Il est donc impossible aux MacMahon de prouver leur suite Genealogique depuis l'an 1400 par contrats de mariage, testamens, actes de partage, actes de Baptême et autres qui font la preuve litterale exigée par ceux que la Cour a nommé pour la verification des preuves de Noblesse.

Mais l'on peut assurer que les preuves presentées par le S. Marquis d'Eguilly sont de nature a ne laisser aucun doute sur l'ancienneté et l'illustration de la maison des MacMahon, et que toute personne qui cherchera le bray y trouvera une suite non interrompue de noblesse très distinguée depuis le XI. siècle jusqu' a présent. Ces preuves sont l'arbre Généalogique des MacMahon, dressé par le Roi d'armes L'Irlande, revetue de toutes les formalités qui en constatent la fidelité et l'exactitude, pour demontrer l'existence des ancetres du Marquis d'Eguilly depuis Bryen Boroime Monarque d'Irlande jusqu'a Terence II. MacMahon qui vivoit en 1472, et pour la suite depuis led. Terence Lord de Clondirala jusqu' au jourdhui ; les enquêtes rapportées dans la preuve de noblesse du S. Marquis d'Eguilly ci jointes, et les titres cités dans son factum ou memoire de 1763, dont on exhibera les originaux aux verificateurs des preuves. Je ne m'arreterai ici qu'à faire voir de quelle autorité doit être l'arbre Généalogique des MacMahon dressé par le Roy d'armes d'Irlande.

Il est de notoriété publique que les preuves de noblesse dans les Royaumes d'Angleterre, L'Ecosse, et d'Irlande ne se font que par certificats des Rois d'armes, charges par sa Majeste Britannique de garder les Registres anciens et modernes, qui contiennent la suite des familles nobles et d'en delivrer des Extraits, lesquels étant duement certifiés et legalisés font foi dans tous les tribunaux. Ces registres, gardés par les Rois d'armes, sont en effet ce qu'il y a plus respectable et de moins equivoque en fait de preuves genealogiques ; ils sont l'ouvrage des hommes sçavans et integres deputés de tous tems par la cour dans les differentes provinces de la grande Bretagne, à l'effet de constater l'état des particuliers, et surtout des nobles ; lesquels sçavans genealogistes se rassembloient au tems marqués dans les lieux indiqués par le Souverain pour examiner les ecrits de ces differentes genealogistes, et souscrire en leur presence dans ces registres la suite des familles nobles et ce qui meritoit de passer à la posterité. Nous voyons par un manuscrit heraldique qui se trouve à la Bibliotheque de l'Abbaye de St Germain des Prés, que la meme chose se pratiquoit autre fois en France chaque province avoit son Heraut d'armes, dont l'office consistait a recueillir tout ce qui concernoit la noblesse de la province. Tous ces Herauts se rassembloient aux tems

marqués dans le ville de Paris, et le Heraut du Roy d'armes de l'isle de France nommé Montjoye, qui tenoit seul les registres de la noblesse, transcrivoit sur les registres, ou faisoit transcrire par son Lieutenant, les nouvelles decouvertes faites par les Herauts particuliers.

Mais comme on peut abuser des meilleurs choses, et qu'on a cru voir que les Rois d'armes d'Irlande et d'ailleurs, avoit étés quelque fois seduitede, on a voulu, pour eviter toute surprise, que les certificats des Rois d'armes ne fussent regardés comme hors de toute suspicion, que lors qu'ils seroient faits sur les registres, et revetus de toutes les formalités, et sans aucun contradiction des chefs des Branches de la famille dont se pretendoient ceux qui obtenoient de tels certificats, E'est sur des certificats de cette espece, et non sur des preuves litterales impossibles, qu' on a reconnu l' ancienneté et l' illustration de la maison des comtes de Thomond et milord Clare, que sa majesté très chretienne à comble d'honneurs et de bienfaits tant en consideration de leur naissance qu'en recompense de leurs service militaires et de leur attachement a la religion et a leur prince legitime; c'est aussi sur des certificats de meme espece qu' on doit reconnoitre l'ancienne Extraction Royal des MacMahon, qui a les mêmes auteurs que les comtes de Thomond, et dont est le S Marquis d'Equilly qui a été reconnu pour parent, non seulement par les chefs Branches des MacMahon, mais encore par les comtes de Thomond qui se font l'honneur de peclarer qu'il vient comme eux des anciens monarques d' Irlande.

Ces preuves testimoniales qui suffiroient dans tous les tribunaux pour constater l'etat des personnes pour la succession des biens et dans nulle autre circonstance, ne peuvent point être admises par les verificateurs nommés par la cour, qui doivent s'astraindre aux lois à eux imposés, à moins que sa majesté n' en ordonne autrement. On ose se flatterer qu' un Monarque aussi genereux et aussi bienfaisant que le notre voudra bien ne point exiger des preuves litterales impossibles pour des sujets qui, de tout et en toute circonstance ont exposé leur vie pour son service, et qui ne sont dans l' impossibilité de faire des preuves Litterales que parce qu' ils ont été fideles a leur religion et à leur prince légitime; et qu' il voudra permettre que sur des preuves testimoniales hors de toute suspicion les descendants infortunés des anciens monarques d'un Pays Catholique ayent l' Honneur d'être presentes au Prince Souverain au service duquel ils se sont consacrer.

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## ADDENDUM.

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WE are indebted to Professor Curry for the following explanations of Irish names and phrases which occur several times in the text:—

“Corkovaskin;” Irish:—*Corcobhaiscinn*; the district of Clare comprised by the present Baronies of Clonderilaw and Moyarta, extending from the Fergus, along the Shannon, to the Atlantic ocean.

“Donogh na glaiche;” Ir.:—*na glaicé* (“of the [great] open hand”)—so called because he had six fingers on his hands.

“Clondirala;” Ir.:—*Chuan idir dá lá*; literally the plain between the two *days*. It is the name of a modern barony.

“Moyarta;” Ir.:—*Magh ferta*; or the Plain of the Graves. It is the name of a modern barony. The old Church of *Magh ferta* is near Carrigoholt, at the mouth of the Shannon.

“Teige Keoch;” Ir.:—*Tadhg caech*—(the blind).

“Finish;” Ir.:—*Fidh-inis*; or wood island. An island in the broad extension of the river Fergus.

“Reinana”—“Rinnanagh;” Ir.:—*Rinn-Anna*, “The point of Anna.” This is not the *Rinn-Anna* of Scatterry Island, but another Point of the same name in the mouth of Fergus. It is opposite Finish Island, and is in the present Barony of Bunratty.

“Killera i.e. Killaloe, p. 41.”

[There are a considerable number of other valuable historic papers concerning the MacMahon family in the possession of Mr. Smith, of Grafton-street, to whose kindness we are indebted for the use we have made of the foregoing. The contents of the preceding pages were originally published in the *Irishman*, and are practically only an abstract of the results of the important documents which the Chevalier O’Gorman had collected, and which are all in Mr. Smith’s collection.]



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